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22 PAGES 150 FILLS

Qatar beaten 2-0 in vital match

Kuwait's cup of joy

KUWAIT won the Arab Gulf Cup football tournament for the seventh time yesterday when they beat Qatar 2-0 at the Peace and Friendship Stadium.

The home team's victory leaves the last match of the 10th Arab Gulf Cup on Friday, between Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, devoid of any importance as it will not have any bearing on the title race.

The Kuwaitis yesterday showed glimpses of their golden era, the early 80s when they were a regional football power, as they controlled most of the game especially the first half.

The home team led 1-0 at the interval through a goal by Rashed Bdaiah, who scored

off an accurate pass from Nasser Al Ghanim in the 20th minute. A free kick by Al Ghanim from the left side of the Qatari goal area sailed over the defenders straight to Bdaiah, whose powerful header went over the advancing Qatari goalkeeper Younis Ahmad.

The second goal was the result of a mistake by Younis in the 16th minute of the second half. The Qatari goalkeeper could not hold on to a cross from a Kuwaiti player and started to juggle with the ball, which moved out of his control. Kuwaiti striker Mohammed Ibrahim capitalised on this mistake and scored the goal by getting at the ball from under the goalkeeper's body.

The second goal failed to spur the visitors

into action and the home team easily managed to keep their rivals at bay for the rest of the match.

The Qataris failed to display the form that took them to a 4-2 victory over Oman on Sunday. They played an entirely defensive game throughout the first half.

Kuwait took advantage of Qatari defensive posture and continuously put the Qatari goal under pressure. Early in the match, Wael Sulaiman got an easy ball inside the box from a corner and shot wide. In the 15th minute, Muayyad Al Haddad got a neat pass in the Qatari half but he took too long in adjusting himself, allowing the Qatari defense to

(Continued on Page 22)



Kuwaitis relish the victory

Amiri role appreciated

CAIRO, March 7. (Kuna): An opinion poll in which 100,000 Arab citizens took part, indicated that Arab citizens appreciate the pioneering and clear role of HH the Amir of Kuwait in the political, social and development fields.

The head of the Arab Information and Public Opinion Research Centre, Dr Mursi Al Nuwaisi said in a press conference that 100,000 Arab citizens from 17 countries, who were selected at random have taken part in the opinion poll.

He added that those polled have expressed belief that the Amir "has been able to preserve the United Arab stance within the framework of Kuwait's policy which calls for a united Arab view toward Arab causes."

Enrile raps Cory govt

MANILA, March 7. (Agencies): Philippine opposition leader Juan Ponce Enrile, accused of involvement in a coup attempt, today launched a sharp attack against President Corazon Aquino's government, a day after being freed from prison on bail.

The former defence minister, jailed last week on rebellion and murder charges, said prices in the Philippines were rising rapidly and the value of the national currency was being eroded.

He also said there were worsening energy and water shortages and accused the government of doing little to curb corruption.

Enrile, accused of involvement in a coup attempt against Aquino last December, denied in an address to the Senate that he was doing anything to undermine the government.

"I am not going to do any mischief. I have never done any mischief against the administration other than to be like Socrates in old Athens, to be a gadfly to the government," the 66-year-old Senate minority floor leader said.

The supreme court yesterday rejected government advice and set Enrile free on bail pending its consideration of the validity of the charge. Defence lawyers say the charges do not legally exist.

Philippine newspapers today said the supreme court ruling was an initial setback for Aquino's government, which argued that Enrile would be free to plot against her if he was granted bail.

But politicians and commentators largely welcomed the decision, saying it proved the independence of the judiciary under Aquino, in contrast to the manipulated legal system that existed under the late president Ferdinand Marcos.

Following the court's decision, retired army general Felix Brawner, also charged with rebellion for his alleged involvement in the December coup attempt, gave himself up today, the National Bureau of Investigation said.

Weather

TEMPERATURE will be around normal with light southeasterly wind changing gradually to light to moderate northwesterly wind. State of sea: slight to moderate. High water: 11.00 am, 9.00 pm. Low water: 4.00 am, 4.00 pm. Sunrise: 6.06 am. Sunset: 5.56 pm. Maximum temperatures recorded: Kuwait: 25°C 77°F. Amman: 19°C 66°F. Faisal: 27°C 81°F. Minimum temperatures recorded: Kuwait: 15°C 59°F. Amman: 16°C 61°F. Faisal: 16°C 61°F. Maximum temperatures expected: Kuwait: 25°C 77°F. Amman: 20°C 68°F. Faisal: 27°C 81°F. Minimum temperatures expected: Kuwait: 15°C 59°F. Amman: 16°C 61°F. Faisal: 16°C 61°F.

Tanai joins rebels

Conflicting reports on fighting in Kabul; aerial attacks reported

ISLAMABAD, March 7. (Agencies): A renegade general who tried to overthrow the government of Afghanistan today defected to the Muslim insurgents he fought for more than a decade, a Pakistani official said.

Gen. Shah Nawaz Tanai, who as Afghanistan's hardline defence minister was one of rebels most bitter foes, fled Afghanistan aboard a Soviet-made military helicopter with his wife, two daughters and son, according to rebel and Pakistani government sources.

After landing in northern Pakistan, the sources said, Tanai talked with several fundamentalists who have been fighting the Soviet-backed government that seized power in a 1978 coup. He then returned to Afghanistan with the rebels, known as mujahideen, the sources said.

"Shah Nawaz Tanai came to a point close to the Pakistan border today and met with a number of rebel leaders. Later, he returned with them to a point deeper in Afghanistan to continue the struggle against (President) Najib," said Pakistani Foreign Secretary Tanveer Ahmed.

Carnage as Sikhs kill 22

CHANDIGARH, March 7. (AP): Sikh extremists killed 22 Hindus and wounded 42 others in a rifle and bomb attack in a crowded market in Punjab state tonight, officials said.

Press Trust of India, citing unofficial reports, said about 25 people were killed in the attack.

At least 10 Sikh gunmen converged on the main market street of Abohar and opened fire, deputy district commissioner Rakesh Singh said in Ferozepur, the district headquarters. He said 18 men and one woman were killed instantly. Three more people died on the way to the hospital, he said.

Two bombs planted in the market exploded during the shooting, Singh said. Police suspected more bombs may be planted along the street, and army

bomb experts were investigating, he said.

He said all the victims were Hindus and most were shopkeepers. Abohar, a predominantly Hindu town with a population of about 96,000, is 250 kilometres (155 miles) southwest of Chandigarh and 325 kilometres (200 miles) northwest of New Delhi.

A police spokesman in Chandigarh, the state capital, said the men were masked and arrived on foot.

"Nobody knows how they escaped," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

State police chief K.P.S. Gill said in Chandigarh that the assailants resorted to indiscriminate firing followed by bomb blasts. He said the attack occurred at 8.15 pm.



Precious water

A Lebanese family carry a plastic tub full of rain water inside their house. Many Lebanese in Beirut are taking advantage of the winter season to use the raining water for drinking and house use following severe shortage in power and water supplies. (Reuters wirephoto)

Rafsanjani senses hostage freedom

NICOSIA, March 7. (Agencies): President Hashemi Rafsanjani of Iran said today he wants the issue of Western hostages held in Lebanon by pro-Iranian Shiite groups to be solved and that he thinks it will be.

But Rafsanjani, who was quoted by the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), also stressed there have been no direct talks on the issue between Iran and the United States.

Eight Americans are among the 18 Western captives in Lebanon including the longest-held, Terry Anderson, 42, who was kidnapped in West Beirut on March 16, 1985. The others are four Britons, two West Germans, two Swiss, an Irishman and an Italian.

"My feeling is that the issue of the hostage is moving toward a solution," Rafsanjani was quoted as saying at a news conference in Tehran.

Rafsanjani said Iran was not directly linked to the hostage issue, but

that he had pledged to use Iran's influence to seek their freedom.

"The issue of the hostages does not concern us at all. Of course, the United States and Britain have time and again requested us to use our influence in Lebanon for the release of the hostages," he said.

"I and my friends would like the issue to be settled since the United States and others are exploiting the matter as a means for branding the Lebanese as terrorists and so they are not seriously seeking a solution," Rafsanjani said.

It was his most direct statement so far that he wants the hostages freed, although he has condemned hostage-taking several times in the past and has said repeatedly that Iran could use its influence to help gain their release.

Rafsanjani is believed to be eager

(Continue on Page 2)

All-party meeting

Indian Premier V.P. Singh (left) with opposition leader Rajiv Gandhi pose for photographers before the start of an all-party meeting which was called by the premier to seek ways to restore peace in Kashmir in New Delhi. (Reuters wirephoto) (See Page 2)

Marry and get KD3,000

KUWAIT, March 7. (Reuters): The government is offering cash to encourage marriage among Kuwaitis. The government will give the newly-weds KD3,000 (\$10,200) in grants and soft loans as part of an effort launched in 1986 to raise the number of Kuwaitis to 50 per cent of the population by the year 2000.

"The main reason is to encourage Kuwaitis to marry Kuwaitis," an official at the Savings and Credit Bank said today.

Officials said the bank was ordered by HH the Amir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad, to offer Kuwaiti couples a KD1,000 grant and a KD2,000 soft loan.

Citizens married to non-Kuwaitis who want to take a Kuwaiti wife were also eligible to apply for the funds, they said.

Central bank governors urge Gulf capital market growth

BAHRAIN, March 7. (Reuters): Government spending in Gulf Arab countries so dominates the economies that no incentive remains for individuals or groups to raise capital for private projects, the governor of Kuwait's Central Bank said today.

Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah, addressing a conference, said state-owned or controlled companies also reduced the amount of equity available for private sector investment.

Many of the state-run firms depended on state subsidies, again providing no incentive to raise funds through the capital market, he said.

Existing GCC markets tended to suffer from low liquidity, and little available information on quoted

companies, he said.

Sheikh Salem said the experience of major world markets in the late 1980s had also proved the need for central banks to have the power available to control monetary policy.

"It is important that the central banks have the appropriate tools... and have the mandate to use these tools," he said.

The governors urged their banks to play a more active role in managing the region's cash flow and for governments to set a firmer base to develop regional capital markets.

The bank leaders said the future economic health of the six states of the Gulf Co-operation Council

(GCC) depended on this.

Projecting their vision, they said broad capital markets, backed by firm legislation to protect investors, and clear regulatory frameworks, would free the GCC states from over-reliance on oil.

It would also allow the private sector its rightful economic importance.

The capital market in many of our GCC countries cannot yet be considered as developed. Existing gaps... eventually will be filled," Saudi Arabia Monetary Agency chief Hamad Saud Al Sayari told the international gathering.

(Continued on Page 15)

NEWSWATCH



Extremists blamed

Britain's main political parties and police yesterday blamed Marxist extremists for causing trouble during nation-wide protests against an imminent new "poll tax."

In a wave of often-violent unrest over the tax, protesters disrupted local council meetings on Tuesday in towns and cities from Durham in northeast England to Exeter in the southwest.

Police arresting a poll tax protestor (Pic) in Bristol. (Reuters wirephoto)

'I don't want Gorbys chair': Maverick Soviet politician Yeltsin said today he did not want to replace arch-rival Mikhail Gorbachev as president of the Soviet Union.

"I am not fighting against Gorbachev," he told a news conference in Munich. "I am not looking for his seat. He should leave his own worries about that."

Yeltsin's latest remarks appeared to contradict those he made in London last week, when he told an interviewer he might consider standing against Gorbachev if conditions were right. (Reuters)

Ultimatum extended: Ministers of the left-leaning Labour Party on Wednesday extended an ultimatum for quitting Israel's governing coalition, giving Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud Bloc four more days to approve American peace proposals.

Labour ministers announced the decision after Israel's inner cabinet failed to reach a decision on the US proposals in a two-hour meeting and postponed a vote on the issue until Sunday.

If the proposals by US Secretary of State James A. Baker III are not approved at the second meeting, Labour's central committee will meet on Monday with a recommendation that the party quit and topple the 15-month-old government, Labour officials said. (AP) (See Page 7)

Peru ship disaster: A disabled riverboat loaded with more than 200 people, mostly school children, smashed into a freighter and sank in the Amazona river, police said on Wednesday. One body was recovered and 134 people were missing.

The riverboat Androsito sank last night, 90 minutes after departing from Iquitos, a river port 715 miles (1150 kms) northeast of Lima, police said.

It was carrying 209 people, including crew and passengers, according to dock authorities in Iquitos. Police said 74 people had been rescued by dawn and the body of a young girl had been recovered. Heavy rain hampered rescue boats and divers searching for survivors and bodies, they added. (AP)

Egypt raises air fare: Egypt will increase air fares for domestic flights by 20 per cent on August 1, the national Middle East News Agency reported on Wednesday, quoting Abdel-Rahman El Dali, sales manager for Egyptair.

The move brings domestic fares in line with rates in other countries, the agency said.

A proposed increase of 30 per cent in fares of international flights run by Egyptair is still being considered. (Reuters)

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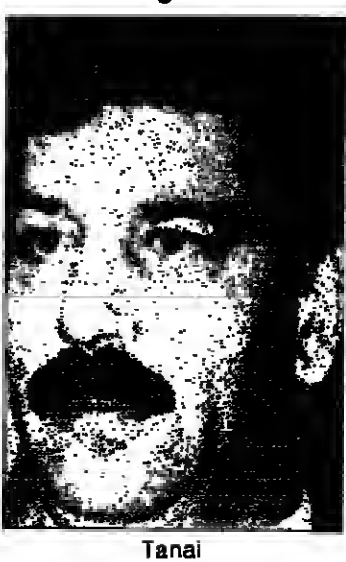
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Tanai

All-party meeting on Kashmir issue

Five more killed in violence

By Thomas Abraham
Arab Times correspondent

NEW DELHI, March 7: An all-party meeting began here today to evolve a national consensus on the sensitive issue of Jammu and Kashmir where the situation seems to be rather grave and demands some drastic action.

Some beginning has already been made in this direction with senior Kashmiri leaders talking to the central government in recent days.

Today's meeting comes after long parleys that Prime Minister V.P. Singh had with leaders of several political parties on the deteriorating situation in the state. Late last night, Singh had a 40-minute meeting with Congress president and former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi. After the meeting, there was speculation that an interim government might be set up in the state.

For the last two or three days, Rajiv has been demanding that the government take some urgent and drastic action in Jammu and Kashmir, arguing that the situation brooked no delay.

Doubts are now being raised about the wisdom of sending Jagmohan as governor of the state at this critical juncture. On the other hand, it is felt that recalling him would send out the wrong kind of signals to the militants.

Questions are also being asked about the propriety of the governor's action of dissolving the state legislative assembly on the ground that the elections were rigged.

Since election may be difficult to hold in the present circumstances, the government might explore the possibility of reviving the assembly, especially in view of the fact that some experts feel that the governor's act of dissolution was also not legally sound.

All the major political parties attended today's all-party meeting. Yesterday, Singh had discussions on the Kashmir situation with, among others, BJP leader Atal Behari Vajpayee, CPI leader Inderjit Gupta and CPM leader Harkishan Singh Surjeet.

The prime minister told the leaders that the government had succeeded in stopping infiltration from Pakistan-controlled Kashmir and also arrested some intruders. According to him, the overall situation in the state was under control.

Pro-secession violence in the Kashmir valley claimed at least five lives today, including two bystanders caught in cross firing between militants and security forces, police said.

The latest round of unrest came during a 5 am to 10 am break in a curfew which was imposed Friday, one day after troops killed 60 demonstrators.

In the worst incident of the day, militants exchanged gunfire with a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) patrol at about 8.30 am in the Batamaloo area of Srinagar.

Two bystanders and one member of the patrol died in the encounter and three other CRPF personnel sustained injuries, police said.

In a separate incident, one member of CRPF patrol was killed in firing between security forces and militants in the Chana Pora section of town, police said.

Another exchange of gunfire in the Hyder Pora area of Srinagar injured as many as 15 security force members.

Also, the body of a suspected police informant was discovered by police about 9.30 am. Responsibility for the killing was claimed by a militant group in a note recovered from the body, police said.

Meanwhile, the government confirmed that it was searching for militants in hideouts throughout Srinagar and said several suspects had been taken into custody.

State Governor Jagmohan said security forces had "neutralized" the Hezbul Mujahideen, one of the militant organisations functioning in the valley.

The Hezbul Mujahideen, is believed to be the most powerful secessionist group in the valley after the Jammu-Kashmir Liberation Front.

Jagmohan said at least 12 ranking militants of the organisation had been arrested in Srinagar and the border towns of Baramulla and Kupwara since Sunday. He did not say if any militants were killed.

"We are going to hit hard at anti-national elements. There is no way they can get away with what they are doing," Jagmohan said.

"It may take a month, six months, maybe a year, but ultimately these anti-national elements are going to be neutralized."

Tigers reject Tamil declaration of independence

COLOMBO, March 7, (UPI): The recent declaration of an independent Tamil state of Eelam by the chief minister of northeast province is "fraudulent, ludicrous and irresponsible," the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the country's largest Tamil militant group declared yesterday.

The Tiger rejection of the independent state set the stage for renewed clashes between the battle-tested Tigers and militias organised by India in support of the breakaway-provincial government.

The statement issued by the LTTE political arm, the People's Front for Liberation Tigers, said the declaration is a

"mockery of our people's struggle for a legitimate cause." The statement was issued by the politbureau of the PFLT after a three man LTTE team arrived in Colombo.

The three-member team includes Tiger ideologist Dr Anton Balasingham, Gopalaswamy Mahendrarajah alias "Mahattaya," the PFLT leader, and Yogaratnam alias "Yogi." They are due to meet President Ranasinghe Premadasa to explain the Tiger stance over the declaration of independence by the chief minister of northeast province.

Since Tamil groups began a bloody fight for an independent state in the predom-

inantly Tamil Hindu areas of north and northeastern Sri Lanka around 1980, several thousand people have died including 1,200 Indian soldiers sent to quell the Tamil insurgency under a 1987 peace accord.

Another 5,000 Sri Lankans died since 1987 as the Indian presence sparked a Buddhist Sinhalese terrorist movement—the JVP—seeking to oust the Indians and overthrow the Colombo government. Sri Lankan troops killed the JVP leader last November and the government opened peace talks with the Tigers while it secured an agreement from India to withdraw its army.

But with the Indian forces leaving, rival

Tamil groups began seizing control of the north and northeastern provinces, with the Tigers killing hundreds of their enemies and appearing able and poised to take power after India leaves.

But March 1, a Tiger rival that India hoped to leave in power, Chief Minister Vartharajah Perumal, announced that the northeast provincial council will function as the national state assembly of the "free and sovereign democratic republic of Eelam."

He further declared that from Feb 28, 1991, the council will also function as the constituent assembly of the "free and sovereign democratic republic of Eelam."

\$5b more to have education for all

JOINTIEN, Thailand, March 7, (AP): Children in the 72 poorest nations can all have access to a basic education by the year 2000 if \$5 billion more are spent each year on the task, a UN official told a conference today.

"The annual cost by the mid 1990s is roughly equivalent to the amount the world now devotes to military expenditures every two days, or to the total of the USA's annual expenditures on cigarette advertising and the amount the Soviet Union spends a year on vodka," said James P. Grant.

Grant, director of the UN Children's Fund, did not say what current level of education spending is.

Grant was addressing the third day of the 155-nation world conference on education for all. UN officials sponsoring the conference have said almost a billion adults are illiterate and more than 100 million children have never seen the inside of a classroom.

A UN official, who requested anonymity, said the World Bank and other agencies and countries have pledged half of the extra \$5 billion needed annually. He said the conference sponsors hoped to persuade donor countries to make up the rest.

At yesterday's conference session, the World Bank announced it will substantially increase its loans for international education, to an annual level of \$1.5 billion by 1993.

The UN Children's Fund said it would increase education spending to \$200 million annually by the end of the century.

Grant said Latin America, sub-Saharan Africa, and the major problem areas for education and the newly industrialized countries of East Asia were the success stories.

Some conference delegates said that even with the new loans, poor nations cannot improve their education programmes unless the bank and other lending institutions abandoned current repayment conditions.

Homeland unrest flares

Police kill 5 to quell Bophuthatswana riots

MABOPANE, South Africa, March 7, (Reuters): Police shot dead five people and mobs set factories ablaze in political violence that shook a second South African tribal homeland today.

Black palls of smoke hung over Garankuwa township, where two doctors at the local hospital said five people had died from bullet wounds after police opened fire on demonstrators.

The doctors told the South African Press Association 500 people were injured in clashes involving 50,000 demonstrators demanding the

resignation of Bophuthatswana President Lucas Mangope.

It was the second bout of serious homeland unrest since a coup in the poverty-stricken Indian Ocean territory of Ciskei on Sunday ended 18 years of harsh rule by President Lennox Sebe.

Crowds apparently inspired by the Ciskei coup set fire to factories, cars and government offices in Mabopane and Garankuwa, in a part of Bophuthatswana, a fragmented territory in Transvaal province and home of the "Sun City" gambling resort.

Homeland security forces fired tear gas, rubber bullets and live ammunition to quell the rioting, witnesses and the South African Broadcasting Corp. reported.

Bopapa, the homeland's official news agency, said hospitals and police reported seven killed and 355 wounded, but it was not clear whether police or protesters were responsible for the casualties.

Stone-throwing demonstrators built barricades of burning tyres and fought running battles with troops on armoured personnel carriers after marching against the government, a camera crew of the Visnews television news agency said.

Businesses, schools and offices closed.

The upheavals in Ciskei and Bophuthatswana, and a new wave of violence in South Africa's black townships, followed the release from jail last month of black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela.

The 10 territories, home for 16 million of South Africa's 27 million black population, were set up forcibly for blacks under Pretoria's "grand apartheid" vision to separate development.

Twenty-seven people were killed in Ciskei in looting by mobs celebrating the downfall of Sebe's repressive rule.

Residents there said 50 people were arrested on suspicion of looting and said the unrest had cost 19,000 jobs.

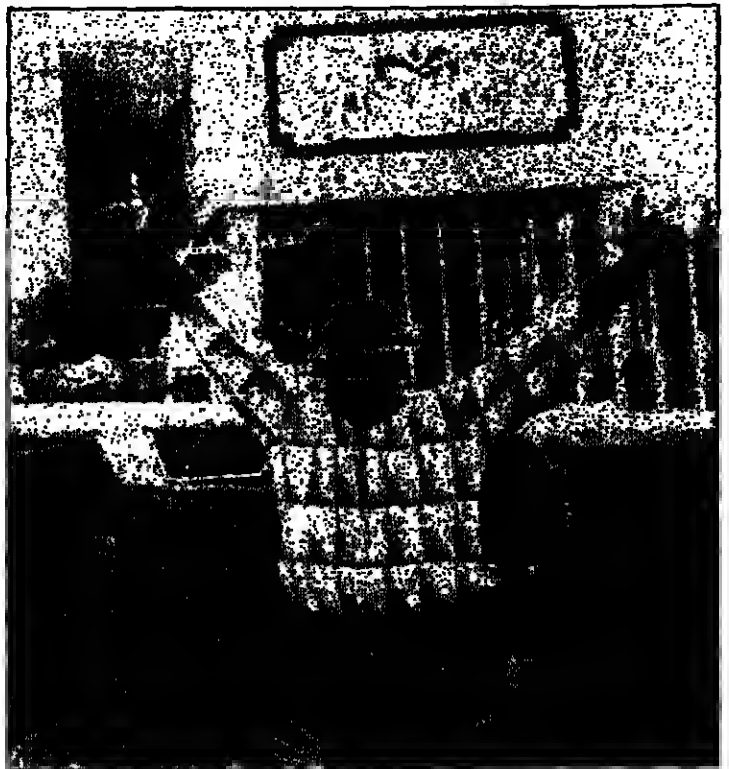
Mangope has vowed he will "never in 100 years" agree to step down or abolish the territory. An attempted coup against him was crushed in hours by South African troops in 1988.

About 3,000 workers at Rustenberg Platinum, the world's biggest platinum mine situated in and around Bophuthatswana, staged a one-day strike on Monday over high income taxes.

South Africa's National Union of Mineworkers said they demanded union recognition and reincorporation of Bophuthatswana in South Africa.

Ciskei's new rulers say they want to reunite with South Africa in line with the policies of Mandela's African National Congress (ANC), the main organisation fighting white rule.

At least 33 people have been killed and hundreds injured in black townships outside the homelands in the past five days in one of the worst upsurges of gang warfare and political unrest.



South African homeland resident celebrates in the streets of Mdantsane after two days of looting and rioting in the wake of a successful coup against Ciskei president Lennox Sebe. (Reuters wirephoto)



Brigadier Oupa Gqozo addresses a news conference. (Reuters wirephoto)

Tanai joins rebels

(Continued from Page 1)

Charge d'Affaires Qudratullah Ahmad said of the Bagram fighting. "This was their (the mutineers) last chance."

Shortly before Najibullah's broadcast in Persian, Pakistan Foreign Secretary Tahir Ahmad Khan told reporters he had information Tanai was directing his forces from somewhere in Farwan province north of Kabul.

Najibullah said Tanai had escaped to Pakistan with other people in an aircraft. He demanded that Pakistan return Tanai and "his criminal friends" as well as the aircraft and money they carried.

"Najibullah, in his third radio broadcast of the day, said some of Tanai's colleagues, including a brigadier-general and two colonels, were killed.

A government statement, quoted by the radio, said the situation was under control. It asked citizens to resume normal work from Thursday.

Earlier today, three high-ranking Afghan generals flew a

Soviet-made transport plane to the Pakistan border and surrendered to the mujahideen, rebel and Pakistani source said.

One rebel source said on condition of not being identified the officers supported neither side in the conflict and did not want to stay in Afghanistan.

President Najib, Afghanistan's former secret police chief installed as president by the Soviets in December 1986, said "a number of people," mostly civilians, had been killed and injured since the coup attempt last afternoon. He gave no figures.

After the coup attempt, Najib named Interior Minister Aslam Watanujar as defence minister to replace Tanai, who was popular among the rank-and-file military.

Radio Kabul today accused another high-ranking party member, Asadullah Sarwari, of involvement in the plot. Sarwari was a former interior minister accused of hundreds of killings following the 1978 revolution that installed the communist government.

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Rafsanjani senses hostage freedom

(Continued from Page 1)

to obtain their release because the issue is an impediment to better ties with the West, which could bring financial and technological help.

But radicals opposed to him see confrontation with the West as the vanguard of the Islamic revolution and they are believed to hold greater sway over the hostage-holders.

Reiterated Iranian demands that Western nations help trace four Iranians.

The four — a diplomat, a military commander, a journalist and their Lebanese Shiite driver who held an Iranian passport — disappeared at a checkpoint in north Lebanon in 1982 and are believed murdered.

In Damascus, Hezbollah council member Hussein Musawi also insisted the hostages may be freed soon, saying he "hoped the release of the hostages in Lebanon would ensure the interests of the oppressed and Muslim people in Lebanon."

He said "co-ordination between Iran and Syria is the only way to solve the problem."

But a pro-Iranian group holding two Americans captive ruled out any imminent release of Western hostages.

"We will continue to rob America's nose with our feet. There is not a single tendency for the release of hostages," said the Revolutionary Justice Organisation in a statement sent to Beirut's independent An-Nahar newspaper.

The US government, however, said today it was encouraged by the latest comments from Rafsanjani.

"We're encouraged by the comments... They certainly are more hopeful than what we've heard in the more distant past," said White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater.

March against family planning

DHAKA, March 7, (Reuters):

About 1,000 Muslim fundamentalists demonstrated in Dhaka today against the government's birth control programme, the first such protest in Bangladesh.

The protest began after noon prayers at the city's main mosque. It was organised by a previously unknown organisation, the committee for resisting birth control, which believes contraception is against the will of Allah.

Muslims constitute nearly 90 per cent of Bangladesh's 110 million people.

The population of Bangladesh is growing at an annual rate of 2.4 per cent. The government hopes it will drop to one per cent by end of this century.

Officials blame the high birth rate mainly on widespread illiteracy and fears among rural women that contraception may be bad for health.

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PEOPLE AND PLACES

PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island Two sisters separated in Cambodia were reunited 16 years later when one of the women happened to go into a Providence restaurant where the other worked.

Sideth Prak, 30, was running the kitchen at the Phenom Penh restaurant two weeks ago when she noticed one of the customers, Bhopa Ros.

The woman's tiny figure and solemn expression were much like her own. She listened to the woman's voice and went running back to the kitchen.

"I think that's my sister out there," she told her husband. Bhopa, then 6, had become separated from her family when the communist Khmer Rouge arrived in Phenom Penh in 1975. Sideth was visiting an uncle in another province and was trapped there when the Khmer Rouge seized power.

Years later, they both made their way to the United States — Bhopa settled in Malden, Massachusetts, and Sideth in Rhode Island.

While in Providence two weeks ago, a Cambodian friend suggested they eat at the Phenom Penh restaurant where the reunion took place. Two days later, Bhopa moved to Cranston to join her sister. She celebrated her 23rd birthday with her family Friday. (AP)

HELENA, Montana Hunters may be called in to kill some of the 20 bison that wandered out of Yellowstone National Park late last week, state wildlife officials said Saturday.

Park bison are thought to carry brucellosis, which can cause spontaneous abortion in cattle.

The animals were spotted by a game warden Thursday night grazing outside the park's west boundary, said John Cade, the State Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

"A hunt is likely if the bison get in a position where we can take some," Cade told the Associated Press.



Old bottle, new label

Perrier Group of America president Ronald V. Davis takes a sip of 'Nouvelle production' Perrier during a press conference at the French consulate in New York on March 6, where he announced the return of Perrier. The world's largest-selling bottled water was recalled worldwide after traces of benzene were found in some bottles. (Rauter wirephoto)

Kangaroo gets a pacemaker

SAN FRANCISCO, March 7 (AP) Skippy, a once-lethargic red kangaroo at the San Francisco zoo, finally has a heart that doctors hope keeps her hopping.

The 7 1/2-year-old marsupial was recovering today after receiving the first pacemaker ever implanted in a zoo animal.

Veterinarians discovered the middle-aged roo's slow-beating heart a few weeks ago while treating a small abscess on her right foot. Her condition deteriorated, and she was near death on Sunday.

On Monday night, three heart surgeons from the University of California at San Francisco, helped by four anesthesiologists from Stanford University, put the pacemaker into Skippy's neck.

"We may take a few to encourage the others to return to the park."

State law allows the controlled hunting of bison that enter Montana from the national park.

The policy has aroused the wrath of animal rights groups, which objected when the state allowed hunters to kill 569 bison last winter.

NEW YORK A \$4-million art theft netted a ring that its owner says belonged to the family of Vlad the Impaler, the Eastern European prince who inspired the vampire legend of Count Dracula, the newspaper Newsday reports.

Two men beat up and handcuffed artist-historian Vasile Ionescu, 67, in his New York apartment and took his collection of paintings. They also took documentation on the paintings, leading police to believe the robbery's masterminds knew what they were doing.

Newsday reported Sunday.

Ionescu, who fled his native Romania more than 20 years ago, said the most valuable work stolen in the August robbery was The Barbederi Holy Family with St John and St Elizabeth, a 1516 painting by Andrea Del Sarto worth about \$3 million.

Also stolen were three signed rings that Ionescu said he acquired in Romania in the 1950s, Newsday said.

Ionescu believes the rings belonged to three princes from the 14th and 15th centuries and that one, emblazoned with a raven, belonged to Vlad Dracul of Wallachia, father of Vlad the Impaler. Wallachia is now part of Romania. Vlad the Impaler was known for impaling, boiling alive and mutilating enemies.

The police has contacted art experts world-wide, the FBI and Interpol. (AP)

Cruising might be heading for a bruising

MODESTO, California, March 7 (AP) The city that seemed to define the teen-age tradition of "cruising" is considering whether to define it as illegal.

Cruising is the practice of driving up and down a relatively small area, for the purposes of showing off one's car seeing friends, engaging in horseplay, and, ideally, meeting attractive members of the opposite sex.

Although it was popular in the 1950s and 1960s in almost every community that had more than a few streets, Modesto's two-mile-long (3-kilometre-long) McHenry Avenue came to represent cruising's acme after the widely popular movie "American Graffiti" was filmed there in 1973.

But, like the rock 'n' roll that blares from cruising cars, cruising has evolved into something wilder over the years. Sometimes up to 5,000 vehicles a night come to the strip, and trouble seems to come with them.

"When people cruise McHenry, we see an increase in gang activity, in alcohol and substance abuse, vandalism to businesses and disrespect in the neighbourhoods," said Carol Whiteside, mayor of the city of about 100,000 people some 90 miles (150 kilometres) east of San Francisco.

We're not willing to be a magnet for everyone in northern California who doesn't have anywhere else to go on Friday night."

Business owners, tired of removing trash and graffiti from their property before opening Monday mornings, and police, concerned they can't adequately patrol the car-closed avenue, are pushing a pair of anti-cruising ordinances to be considered March 27 by city council.

Under the proposals, motorists would face fines if they pass designated checkpoints more than twice in a four-hour period. Pedestrians would risk loitering citations.

That sits poorly with teens who are drawn to Modesto from miles (kilometres) away just for the change to drive around. "We're not here to look for trouble."

We're here to have a good time. This is what gathers all different people," said 17-year-old Robert Bennett, who drove 15 miles (25 kilometres) from Manteca.

Joe Hudson, 19, drove 30 miles (50 kilometres) from Tracy to find a group of girls he'd met the week before. Not that the evening would be lost if they didn't show — "there goes a Mustang (automobile) with a blonde and a brunette," he pointed out to two friends.

Today's cruisers may have the same motives as their parents and grandparents, but as car club give way to gangs, pranks to violence and stately radios to blaring stereo systems, some residents wonder if it's time to let cruising pass into legend.

UK model bares all to protest new tax

LONDON, March 7 (Reuters) A British model was arrested yesterday after handcuffing herself naked to railings outside Parliament to protest against a proposed tax, the latest act of public opposition to the controversial government move.

Also in London a war hero returned his awards to Queen Elizabeth in a personal protest against the so-called poll tax.

Six people were arrested in the western part of Bristol and two policemen were slightly hurt during violent protests by 500 people against the new tax designed to finance local councils.

The incidents were indicative of the extent of opposition to the tax which replace property taxes with a personal levy on 42 million people aged 18 and over with effect from April.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, whose Conservative government is facing its lowest rating ever in opinion polls, has staunchly defended the tax as fair and blames councils run by the opposition Labour Party for overspending.

Police armed with batons moved against the crowd in Bristol after some people threw stones at police and tried to storm the council building as members met to set the poll tax rate.

A dozen people were arrested on Monday night after a similar demonstration in the north London district of Haringay.

Police said the 25-year-old woman who handcuffed herself outside Parliament was cut free by police and huddled away.

Part of the time she was holding an anti-poll tax protest placard in front of her head. A lot of Japanese tourists were taking pictures of pretty well every other part of her," a police spokesman said.

It was an emotional scene outside Buckingham Palace when 89-year-old Richard McMillan arrived to return his Order of the British Empire, an honour awarded by the crown.

"You don't surrender a thing like this without a certain emotion. A part of my life is going," McMillan said, sobbing as he read a letter explaining his decision.

".....It is the only way I know of protesting against the iniquity of the poll tax," said McMillan, who spent five years as a war journalist during World War Two.

He and his wife Joan face a poll tax of £900 (\$1,485), more than double the property rate they paid on their isolated cottage in western England.

Coca-Cola may change coke name

ATLANTA, March 7 (AP) The Coca-Cola Co., which learned the hard way about consumer loyalty when it changed the formula of coke five years ago, apparently isn't worried about tinkering with the product that replaced it.

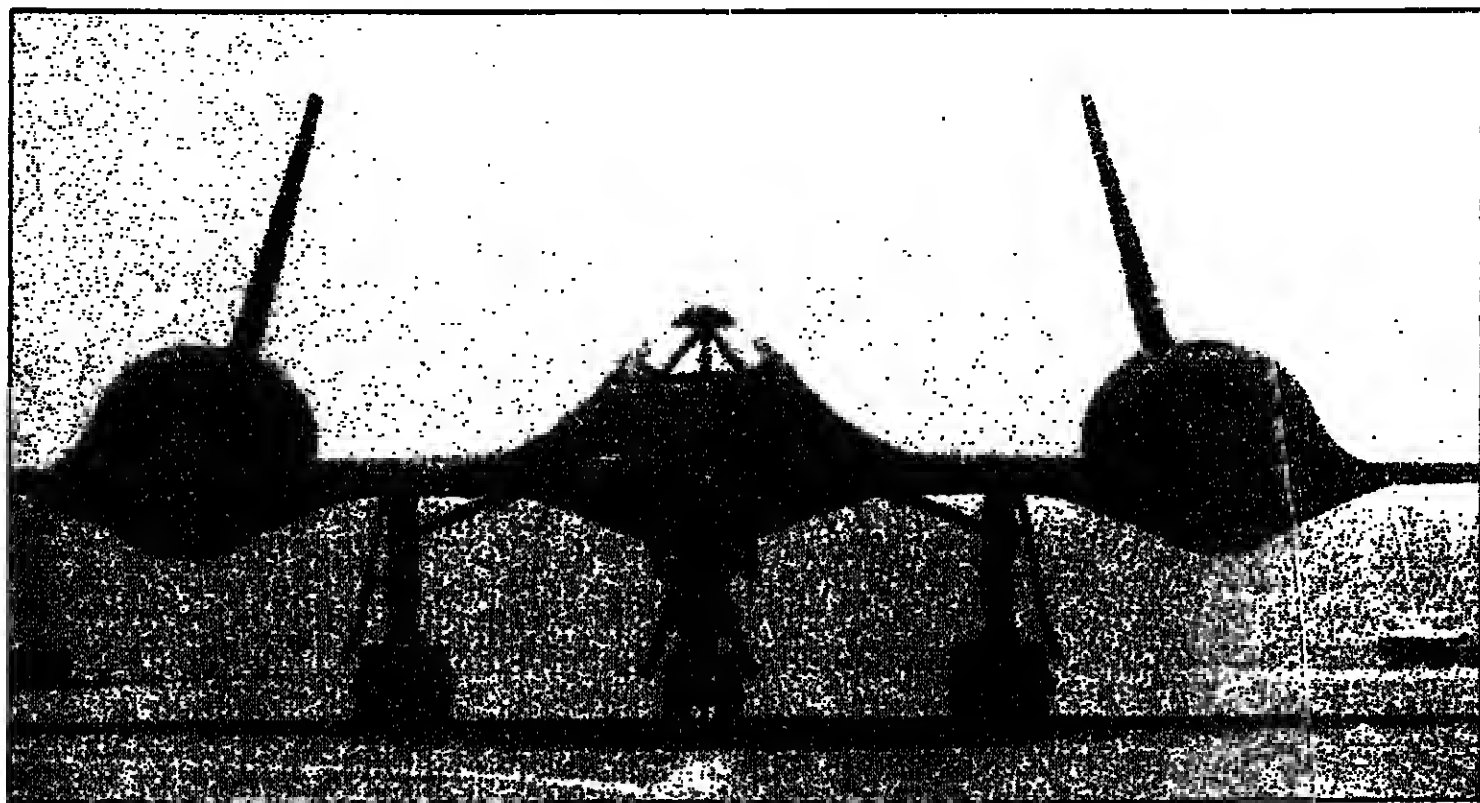
The company said yesterday it will try changing the name of New Coke to Coke II in an attempt to bolster sales of the product that in 1985 replaced the world's best-selling soft drink and sparked a consumer revolt.

Randy Donaldson, spokesman for Atlanta-based Coke, said the formula of New Coke will not be altered and that no changes are planned for Coca-Cola Classic, the name for the restored original formula.

Donaldson said Coke II will be test marketed initially in one city, which he would not identify.

"After five years, New Coke is no longer new, though it's still called New Coke," he said. "We just want to make it easier to distinguish between Coke II and Coke Classic."

Soft drink industry analysts speculated that if the change to Coke II is adopted, the brand name Coca-Cola could be returned to the best-selling Coke Classic. Coke officials denied such a name change was being considered.



The majestic SR-71 Blackbird

'Blackbird' spy plane streaks to new record — and retirement

CHANTILLY, Virginia, March 7 (AP) The United States' premier spy plane — the SR-71 Blackbird — came in from the cold war after a quarter century of supersonic snooping, setting a transcontinental speed record yesterday before retiring to a museum home.

In a final flying for the history books, one of the Black, dagger-shaped aircraft flashed from coast to coast in 58 minutes, 17 seconds, arriving at Washington Dulles international airport outside the nation's capital to the cheers of hundreds of onlookers.

The old record was 3 hours, 38 minutes, set in 1963 by a Boeing 707.

The Blackbird took a running start, refueling over the Pacific Ocean at 60,000 feet (18,200 metres) before heading east from the California coastline and crossing its finish line near Salisbury.

Maryland, said Malvern Gross, president of the National Aeronautics Association. The Blackbird then refueled before cruising in to Dulles airport.

The flight also set three other speed records certified by the National Aeronautics Association.

"It's bittersweet," said air force Lt. Col. Bruce Lieberman, who flew Blackbirds for the 9th strategic reconnaissance wing at Beale Air Force Base, California, in the 1970s. "I'm happy it set the record but sad that it has been put to bed."

"Bye-bye, Blackbird," said Ben Rich, the Lockheed Aeronautical System Co. executive who helped design the Blackbird. "I cannot honestly say this is a happy day for me."

The Blackbird model No. 17972 was donated to the Smithsonian Institution, which plans to display it at a Dulles Airport wing of the National Air and Space Museum.

Against overcast skies, the spy plane ended its flight by dipping as low as 200 feet (61 metres) above the runway as it whistled past an official greeting gate, balls of fire trailing its huge engines as the pilot suddenly pointed the pencil-shaped fuselage toward the heavens.

It was one of the few public displays of a Blackbird. And despite the rush to publicize this final run, most details of the plane's design and capabilities are still top secret. The air force won't even say how many of the planes exist.

Maj. Suzanne Randle of the Strategic Air Command's headquarters at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, said nine Blackbirds are going to museums, three are being mothballed at Palmdale, California, and three will be used by NASA for research. Ms. Randle said she could not say whether that accounted for all the planes.

Drums with a message

Soldiers beat a giant drum at a busy intersection in Beijing on March 7 to encourage residents to follow the example of Lei Feng. Lei Feng was a model worker who is touted by the Communist Party as a hero for his devotion to socialism. The capital has been under a barrage of Lei Feng propaganda for the past week. (Reuters wirephoto)

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Finnish women protest porn card

HELSINKI, March 7 (Reuters) Finnish women's organisations called yesterday for national arbitrator Jorma Reini to be sacked for sending a sexually explicit postcard to a woman's rights worker, a Ministry official said.

Delegates handed Labour Minister Matti Puhakka an open letter signed by over 4,000 Finns which said the incident revealed the male attitude towards women's equality in the labour market, the official said.

Reini apologised on television for the card.



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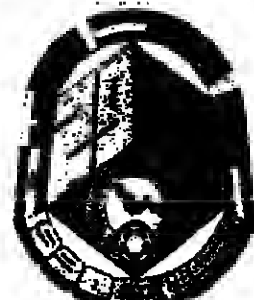
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INTERNATIONAL

Beijing mayor denies harassment

Vow to quash unrest

BEIJING, March 7, (UPI): Investigations and prosecutions of participants in last year's pro-democracy movement are still under way, Beijing Mayor Chen Xitong said today, but he refused to say how many people have been arrested or jailed.

At a wide-ranging news conference, Chen also vowed to suppress any further anti-government unrest and dismissed recent complaints by foreign journalists and business people that Chinese had been harassed by police for contacts with them.

"Turmoil like that (last spring) will never again be allowed in Beijing," Chen said. "We will stop any turmoil, big or small."

The news conference, held at a hotel in the southwest suburbs, was Chen's first full session with foreign reporters since the unrest last year.

Chen, 60, a former police and

party official who has held the politically sensitive Beijing mayor's post since 1987, was among the government hard-liners who advocated the violent crackdown last June on the massive pro-democracy protests in the capital.

As many as 10,000 people are believed to have been arrested in Beijing in the military and police sweep that followed the army's firing on demonstrators. Some have been released, but many are reportedly still held, numerous without being formally charged.

Authorities, however, have steadfastly refused to give official figures on the number of arrests. Chen said the investigations were still under way and asserted: "We don't have the numbers."

"At present, the procedure has not been finished," he said. "According to Chinese law, it is

being undertaken step by step."

As to arrest figures, he said, "we will gradually issue them according to the completion of the legal procedure."

Pressed on how the government could still not have figures nine months after the crackdown, Chen went as far as to compare the situation to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in 1963, saying that investigation took years.

"The numbers are very small," Chen said.

Chen also declined to discuss specifics of security precautions being taken in Beijing in advance of this spring. Fears have been expressed of possible renewed unrest on key anniversaries of last year's disturbances.

"We are not worried about the reappearance of the turmoil that occurred last year," Chen said.



Chen Xitong

Ninoy letters helped Enrile

MANILA, March 7, (AP): Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile said today that during his week's imprisonment he read the writings of President Corason Aquino's late husband, whom Enrile had ordered arrested nearly 18 years ago.

Enrile was released on bail yesterday on the orders of the supreme court, after his lawyers argued a charge against him of "rebellion with murder" was invalid.

He was jailed Feb 27 on a warrant charging him in connection with last December's failed coup against Aquino.

"When you are in jail, there is nothing more important than freedom," Enrile said in a radio interview. "Your efforts to enrich yourself, your desire for power and fame all become meaningless."

Enrile, 66, said he reflected on the experiences of Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino, who was jailed for seven years during the late president Ferdinand Marcos' administration. Enrile, who was then defense minister, signed the arrest order.

"I searched myself and then I read... letters of Ninoy Aquino during his incarceration. I reflected on these and suddenly I felt how he felt then," Enrile said.

Aquino was assassinated in August 1983 upon returning from the United States to challenge Marcos. Aquino has blamed the military for her husband's killing.

Aquino was installed as president in 1986 after Enrile led a mutiny that toppled Marcos. Aquino kept Enrile as defense minister, but fired him nine months later after soldiers identified with him tried to mount a coup attempt.

Recalling his arrest, Enrile said he was touched when people he did not know offered moral support and shouted "God bless you" as police took him to his cell.

"I wept... not because I pitied myself but because I did not expect that people would have that kind of reaction," Enrile said. "I thought I was a very bad person because of the mean things written about me in the newspapers."

Lanka to get first Aids baby

COLOMBO, March 7, (Kuna): Sri Lanka's first Aids-affected baby is expected to be born in April this year, according to the island's virologist, Doctor D.N. Jayakuru.

Meanwhile, doctors at Colombo General Hospital's maternity ward have protested to the country's Health Ministry they cannot deliver the baby as the hospital is not properly equipped to carry out such a delivery.

The woman, whose identity has not been revealed, is the first pregnant woman, found to be afflicted with Aids in Sri Lanka. The Health Ministry has informed the hospital that the woman would be brought to it at short notice.

Sources said the doctors would require goggles and special gloves which cannot be damaged accidentally if a Caesarian operation has to be performed on the woman. Such safe equipment are not available at this hospital.



Enrile barriers with Laurel (left) on the first day he reported back to work in the Senate. (Reuters wirephoto)

Arrest becoming difficult

Public supports rebel gov

ANGELES, Philippines, March 7, (AP): Public support for a suspended governor is making it difficult to apprehend him in connection with a failed coup attempt in December, a military official said today.

Maj. Benjamin Peralta, spokesman for the military's northern Luzon command, told reporters that civilian and military informants have been giving government troops conflicting information regarding the location of suspended Cagayan Gov. Rodolfo Aguinaldo.

"Talk to them now and they'll give you false leads," Peralta said. "Then it will turn out that they are sympathizers of Aguinaldo."

Aguinaldo was indicted on charges of "rebellion with mur-

der" for allegedly expressing support for rebel troops on the first day of the failed coup from Dec 1-7, and an arrest warrant has been issued against him.

"Undoubtedly, the sympathy and support of most people of Cagayan for Aguinaldo has compounded the difficulty of analyzing the problem," Peralta said.

In Manila, Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos, in a report during today's cabinet meeting, said 12 people, including a brigadier general, died Sunday during fighting between government troops and Aguinaldo's supporters.

A joint military-civilian team has been sent to Cagayan's capital of Tuguegarao, about 400 kilometres (250 miles) north-

east of Manila, to try to serve the support for rebel troops on the first day of the failed coup from Dec 1-7, and an arrest warrant has been issued against him.

Before the officials could serve the warrant, Aguinaldo's forces seized a hotel and took Brig. Gen. Oscar Florendo, one of the government representatives, as a hostage. Florendo died during government efforts to retake the hotel. Aguinaldo fled during the fighting.

The report said that in addition to Florendo, four other government soldiers were killed in sporadic clashes with Aguinaldo's supporters. Seven rebels also died and five others were wounded in the fighting, it added.

It said 248 soldiers, militiamen and armed civilian supporters of Aguinaldo either surrendered or were captured.

Thais to close Cambodian border camps

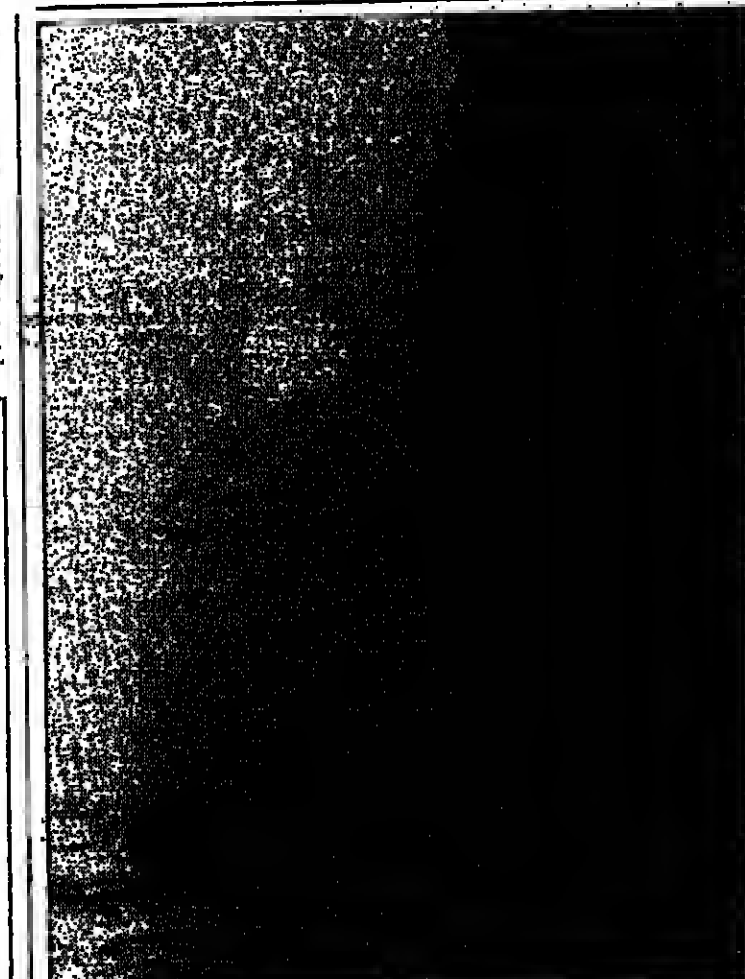
BANGKOK, March 7, (Reuters): Thailand long a springboard for Cambodian guerrilla groups, said today it would close guerrilla-controlled camps on the border and send the 300,000 inmates to neutral sites or back to Cambodia.

A government spokesman said Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan wanted to pressure guerrillas, backed by the West and China, into finding a peaceful end to their 11-year war against the Vietnamese-installed government in Phnom Penh.

"We have tried our best to help discussions towards a peace proposal but in the past few meetings the two sides have shown no willingness to seek a solution," Likhit Hongladarom said.

Since becoming prime minister 18 months ago Chatichai has broken with Thailand's longtime support for the guerrillas by starting talks with Cambodian Premier Hun Sen and floating his own peace plan.

Likhit said 300,000 civilian inmates of United Nations-supplied camps controlled either by the two non-communist factions or the radically left Khmer Rouge would be given the choice of being repatriated or sent to a neutral camp.



Dwarfed

A small Hong Kong walla-walla is dwarfed as it motors past the stern of the Queen Elizabeth II at Hong Kong's Ocean Terminal on March 7. (Reuters wirephoto)

Recruit 7 in cabinet

Kaifu calls for raising of living standard

TOKYO, March 7, (AP): Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu told parliament that he and six other members of his new cabinet had received donations from Recruit Co., the firm at the centre of a widespread influence-peddling scandal.

Kaifu also said Japan must raise its living standards to help reduce its trade surplus with the West. He said expensive housing, high savings and poor public facilities have kept Japanese living standards low and

limited imports.

"Our corporations are wealthy and strong, but this wealth has come at the expense of long working hours and a low standard of living. It is time to redress this imbalance," he said.

Responding to an opposition Socialist Party questioner, Kaifu said members of his cabinet, formed last Tuesday, had received a total of 48.8 million yen (\$325,300) in donations from Recruit.

Kaifu listed himself as the largest recipient, with 14.4 million yen (\$96,000), followed by director general of the national land agency Moriyoichi Sato, who had received 14 million yen (\$93,300).

"All of these donations had been received before the Recruit company became the target of public criticism," Kaifu said.

Twelve Japanese politicians, public officials and Recruit executives have been indicted on bribery charges in connection with the sale of cut-rate, unlisted shares of Recruit stock.

Kaifu had sought to keep politicians linked to the Recruit case out of his administration. In forming his new cabinet, after his party's Feb 18 election victory, he showed resisted pressure from party elders to give cabinet posts to two such men.

Last spring and summer, two prime ministers resigned over the scandal and a major election loss attributed in part to it. Three cabinet members also resigned for links to Recruit, and the party's senior leaders adopted a low profile, clearing the way for the rise of Kaifu, who took office with a clean image and promises of political reforms.

Last week, a mass-circulation weekly magazine reported that Kaifu actually had received 26.3 million yen (\$175,300) from Recruit, but in Parliament yesterday, the prime minister reiterated his earlier statement that the correct total was 14.4 million yen.

Responding to other opposition questions, Kaifu urged lawmakers to co-operate in changing Japan's economic structure for the sake of the Japanese people as well as to cool mounting trade friction with the West.

"We intend realistic efforts to carry out structural reforms. That means we must carry out reforms of our land use policies and improve the standard of living," he said.

Two cabinet members yesterday indicated moves toward carrying out pledges made by Kaifu at his California summit with US President George Bush last week.

Minister of International Trade and Industry Kabuo Muto reversed his earlier opposition to changing the large scale retail stores law, which US officials say tends to prevent foreign firms from expanding their sales in Japan.

Ministry officials said they were considering changing or abolishing the law, which restricts large stores and encourages small ones.

The law is under attack by US trade negotiators and domestic business circles on the grounds that it hinders big foreign retailing chains and slows the opening of large Japanese stores, which are more likely than traditional mom-and-pop shops to sell foreign-made goods.



Mandela enjoys for the first time in his life the chance to sit in the cockpit of a plane. Mandela flying in an Air Zimbabwe Boeing 707 from Harare to Dar es Salaam, spent 10 minutes with captain Johnny Grimes as the plane flew over Tanzania. (Reuters wirephoto)

Sisulu sent to deal Ciskei crisis

Mandela confers in Tanzania

DAR ES SALAAM, March 7, (Agencia): Nelson Mandela conferred on today with leaders of Tanzania's ruling party, a staunch supporter of his ANC's struggle against white rule in South Africa.

South Africa's black nationalist leader planned to address a rally at Dar Es Salaam's main sports stadium in the afternoon (1230 GMT), after talks with former Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere, chairman of the Chama Cha Mapinduzi Party.

Socialist Tanzania has consistently taken a hard line against apartheid and there are more members of Mandela's African National Congress living and undergoing military training in Tanzania than in any other African country.

ANC sources said Mandela would probably use the rally to make his first comments on Sunday's coup in

South Africa's Ciskei tribal homeland by radical military officers who toppled the veteran conservative leader Lennox Sebe. Dar Es Salaam is the headquarters of the rival Pan Africanist Congress (PAC), which broke away from the ANC in 1959, accusing it of being too conciliatory towards South Africa's five million whites.

Diplomats said Nyerere is likely to urge Mandela to be wary of South African President F.W. de Klerk and his promises of reform and to keep up the armed struggle.

The sources said about 15,000 ANC cadres are undergoing military training at secret camps in southern Tanzania, which Mandela is expected to visit later this week.

A further 13,000 ANC members living in Dar Es Salaam and in farming and educational settlements near the central town of Morogoro are

registered with the United Nations as refugees. Mandela arrived in Tanzania last evening on the third leg of his first trip abroad since his release from 27 years in jail in South Africa last month.

He previously visited Zambia for talks with the ANC leadership in exile and Zimbabwe. The sources said Mandela, 71, nearly abandoned his trip to Tanzania to fly home and deal with the Ciskei coup crisis, which he viewed as a dangerous conflict within the black community at a time when it needed to close ranks against apartheid.

Eventually he decided to sent home another of the ANC's veteran internal leaders, Walter Sisulu, to deal with the crisis while he continued his tour, they added.

Tomorrow, Mandela visits the Tanzanian island of Zanzibar.

Sack minister call

Tutu condemns secret terror unit

CAPE TOWN, March 7, (UPI): Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu yesterday slammed the activities of a secret military unit under judicial investigation and called on South African President Frederik de Klerk to sack his defence minister.

The one-man inquiry by Justice Louis Harms is investigating the activities of the secret Civil Operations Bureau, established within the South African defence force and linked by police investigators to the assassination of anti-apartheid activists.

"I call upon Mr De Klerk at the very least to suspend or sack (Defence Minister) Magnus Malan and to disband the COB immediately," Tutu told a congregation in Cape Town's St. George's cathedral. "Every time Magnus Malan opens his mouth he just gets himself deeper into the mire."

Malan told an emergency debate in Parliament on Feb 26 that the COB had existed since 1987, but on Monday he said he had learned of its existence only in November 1988.

During its first session Monday the Harms Commission heard evidence that an internal military inquiry revealed the COB's activities included a plan to hang a baboon fetus outside Tutu's Cape Town residence.

"Now we know that when you see soldiers wandering around in the bush they are not looking for terrorists. They are looking for pregnant baboons," said Tutu, winner of the 1984 Nobel peace prize.

An army general testified yesterday that the military approved plans in 1985 for undercover agents to go abroad and disrupt operations of the exiled African National Congress.



Circus elephant

Abu, A 57-year-old circus elephant stands on the back of a truck in a Melbourne traffic queue to be taken back to his circus home after he entertained a lunch-time crowd in the city square. (Reuters wirephoto)

African leaders finding IMF austerity measures hard to sell to citizens

ABIDJAN, March 7, (Reuters): Mercedes-Benz cars, once a prized symbol of power in Africa, have become targets for protest as unrest caused by economic austerity sweeps the continent.

"It's dangerous these days to drive around in a Mercedes," said one shopkeeper in Ivory Coast who had seen several of them being rocked by demonstrators this week.

In Gabon, a fresh wave of strikes is looming for black Africa's richest nation in the latest sign of discontent with harsh reforms demanded by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The continent is in a slump largely because of low commodity prices, while Europe, Asia and North America are booming.

But with good times that allowed people to buy expensive cars fresh in people's minds, African leaders are finding it tough to get their people to accept the IMF medicine.

"We are the people who didn't benefit during the boom years," a middle-ranking civil servant in Ivory Coast said after street protests against proposed salary cuts of up to 40 percent. "And now they want us to be the ones to make sacrifices."

The unrest generally has been most serious in better-off countries such as Nigeria, Gabon or Ivory Coast which have had a taste of prosperity only to see it slip away.

In Gabon, which has been hit by work stoppages, riots and looting since mid-January, President Omar Bongo took steps last weekend to halt the most serious unrest of his 23-year rule.

He announced a refund of a three-percent tax on all wages and postponed elections due in April. He also claimed he was "trapped" by accords he had signed with the IMF.

"Bongo has no other alternative than to give in to most demands and soften the austerity drive imposed by the IMF," a Western diplomat said.

"His fledgling democratic moves can only succeed if he manages to defuse social tension now."

Gabon has the highest per capita income in Black Africa but revenues from oil have dropped sharply since the mid-1980s.

It is one of more than 20 African countries following IMF-backed austerity programmes.

But reconciliation seemed more and more unlikely, as the disgruntled leaders again refused to soften their stance after his prepared speech was read at the weekly meeting of the Kuomintang's central standing committee.

The committees of senior party leaders also proposed Tuesday to limit the president to a maximum of two consecutive terms of office and to guarantee one-third of all seats in the central executive bodies to mainland and overseas Chinese representatives, in an apparent concession to the conservative faction. (UPI)

North disputes Seoul claim: North Korea turned the tables on South Korea Wednesday, claiming it was the United States and the Seoul government which built a series of four underground tunnels along the nation's borders for the purpose of "invading the North."

In a dispatch from the official (North) Korean Central News Agency, monitored in Tokyo, the Pyongyang government for the first time disputed South Korea's claim that a recently discovered fourth tunnel had been dug by North Korea to

invade the South. The latest propaganda war between the two enemies threatens to further sour hopes for dialogue aimed at achieving a peace treaty to end hostilities from the 1950-53 Korean war that left 2 million people dead, as well as possible reunification of the countries divided at the end of World War II. (UPI)

Students fail to attack office: Eight students armed with homemade explosives tried Wednesday to attack the headquarters of the newly formed governing party, but police overpowered them in a scuffle, party officials said in Seoul.

The students from seven universities in Seoul and other cities tried to enter the office in Seoul through a back door but were stopped by police guarding the building, the officials said.

The attackers, all members of a radical student group called the national council of student representatives, told police they planned the attack to publicize their opposition to the new governing party, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity. (AP)

Saudis donate \$2m to fight drugs

WASHINGTON, March 7. (AP) The Washington Post said today that Saudi Arabians gave \$2 million in two donations to Nancy Reagan's war on drugs, providing more than half of the money raised for her anti-drug fund.

Saudi King Fahd gave \$1 million in 1985 and another 1 million came later from Mouaffak Al Midani, a Syrian-Saudi businessman, the Post said. The newspaper said its report was based on documents and interviews with the people involved.

The donations came at the same time the Saudi royal family was helping to finance the Contras in their war against the Sandinistas in Nicaragua and as the administrations was considering a weapons sale to the Saudis, the newspaper said. The Saudis were permitted to buy some, but not all, of the weapons they wanted.

James Rosebush, who was chief of staff to the first lady at the time, said the Saudi donations were not intended to influence her or her husband, former President Ronald Reagan.

UN body votes to carry on Cuba scrutiny

GENEVA, March 7. (Reuters) The United Nations decided yesterday to continue monitoring human rights in Cuba, in a vote seen by the United States as further isolating one of the world's last communist strongholds.

The 43-member human rights commission adopted a resolution asking President Fidel Castro's government to honour its pledge not to harass Cubans who testified to a UN committee which visited the island in September 1988.

The US-sponsored resolution, adopted by 19 votes, with 12 against and 12 abstentions, also asked UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar keep the commission informed of contacts with the Cuban government about human rights on the island.

Those voting in favour of the text, which stopped short of condemning Cuba, included former allies such as Hungary and Bulgaria who have moved away from communist rule.

Observers, including Cuba's former allies Poland and Czechoslovakia, said they supported the resolution.

"What has happened to the socialist world?" asked Cuba's Deputy Foreign Minister, Raul Roa, adding his country rejected the implications of the US-sponsored resolution.



'Bloody Sunday'

Former Georgia legislator Rev. Hosea Williams (left) and Congressman John Lewis (right) walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in a re-enactment on the 25th anniversary of the 'Bloody Sunday' confrontation between civil rights demonstrators and local police. Williams and Lewis were among those present at the original protest 25 years ago. (Reuters wirephoto)

Colombian cocaine flooding Europe

BOGOTA, March 7. (Agencies) Colombian cocaine exports to Europe this year will equal nearly half the amount reaching the United States, the biggest consumer of the drug, a US narcotics official has predicted.

The official, who asked that his name not be used, estimated the amount of cocaine shipped to European countries has tripled over three years.

He said cocaine exports from Colombia to Europe rose to about 100 tonnes in 1989 from 60 tonnes the previous year. He estimated that in 1990 the total would be 150 to 200 tonnes.

"I think that the traffickers are looking at Europe more and more," he told a news briefing.

He said that Colombian cocaine exported to the United States totals between 350 and 450 tonnes a year.

He explained that prices for cocaine in the saturated US market have dropped over the past couple of years and are "significantly lower than in Europe."

The official said he believed Colombians have networks in virtually every Western European country and are joining forces with crime networks such as the Italian mafia.

In another strike at the drug trade, tax authorities have served summonses on criminal defence attorneys around the country demanding that they reveal the names of clients who paid large lawyer fees with cash.

US postal service to charge a nickel more

WASHINGTON, March 7. (AP) The US postal service yesterday began the complex process of adding a nickel to the price of mailing a letter.

With a record \$1.6-billion loss looming in this fiscal year, Postmaster-General Anthony M. Frank says the increase is necessary.

The Postal Board of Governors voted for increases averaging 19 per cent and affecting virtually all classes of mail.

The charge for first class is to rise from a quarter to 30 cents next year, with each additional ounce increasing from 20 cents to 23 cents.

Post cards would cost 20 cents rather than 15 to send. And rates will also rise for advertising, magazines, parcels and other types of mail.

The proposed increase would be somewhat more than the rate of inflation, said Frank, who promised to hold postal spending below the inflation rate at least through 1995.

Unlike a store manager, however, Frank can't simply slap a new price tag on the goods. The proposal must go to the Independent Postal Rate Commission, which has 10 months to consider the request, hold hearings and issue a report.

If the commission agrees, rates can go up. If not, it's back to the drawing board unless the Postal Service Board of Governors votes unanimously to overrule the commission.

Any rate increase would not occur before early 1991.

Postal charges last increased in 1988, from 22 to 25 cents.

The postal service has posted five surplus years and five loss years in the last decade, finishing 1989 about \$61 million in the black.

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Chamorro (left) is accompanied by outgoing Costa Rican President Oscar Arias before their meeting at the Las Espuelas hotel in Liberia. (Reuters wirephoto)

Chamorro plan to demilitarise Centam

LIBERIA, Costa Rica, March 7. (Agencies) Nicaraguan president-elect Violeta Chamorro presented Costa Rican President Oscar Arias with a plan yesterday for the demilitarisation of Central America.

Chamorro, who takes office April 25 from outgoing Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, met with Arias in the city of Liberia, 40 miles (65 km) from the Nicaraguan-Costa Rican border. It was her first trip out of Nicaragua since winning Feb 25 elections.

"When the superpowers are at this time reducing their arms to improve the standard of living for their people, there is even more reason for our small countries to put an end to this drain on our economies," Chamorro said in her proposal, which envisions the co-operation of all governments in the region.

Chamorro said one of her first acts as president would be to decree a general amnesty.

Representatives of Chamorro discussed demobilisation with Contra officials yesterday, but the rebels reaffirmed their demand that Nicaragua's army be dismantled before the Contras disband.

Ortega's recently expressed reluctance to surrender control of the Sandinista armed forces is "very much at odds" with the conciliatory tone he struck after his election. Jeffatt, U.S. State Department said yesterday.

Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler expressed concern over Ortega's recent comments on retaining Sandinista control of the nation's military and on the leftist party's revival of local Sandinista militias.

Bomb levels US bank, 3 killed

CRESTED BUTTE, Colorado, March 7. (AP) An explosion levelled a two-storey bank yesterday in this western Colorado ski town, killing three people and injuring 12 others, officials said.

Firefighters and volunteers dug through the rubble of the Crested Butte National Bank and pulled out survivors.

"They're doing it by hand. We have some heavy equipment there, but most of the rescuers are using their hands," said Bob Gillen, spokesman for the nearby Crested Butte mountain resort, which was handling rescue operations.

Crested Butte mayor Wes Light said three people died in the blast. All 15 people that authorities believe were in the bank are accounted for, he said.

Six of the injured were taken to Gunnison county hospital, 30 miles south, and the other six were treated at local clinics, the mayor said.

Tom Yates, chief of the Gunnison police department, said three of the injured were in critical condition.

Authorities did not know what caused the 9 am (1600 GMT) explosion, Gillen said.

"There was an explosion, but there are no natural gas lines in there. We're puzzled by it," he said. "It doesn't make sense."

Agents from the federal bureau of alcohol, tobacco and firearms would be sent to Crested Butte, said agent Carl Newton in Denver.



Barge explodes

A barge carrying 100,000 gallons (378,500 litres) of unleaded gasoline exploded off Staten Island on Tuesday, police and fire officials said.

At least one person was believed injured, and others may have been trapped as a result of the 1:30 pm (1830 GMT) accident, which occurred while the barge was anchored in the water, said police spokesman Sgt Nick Vreeland.

The barge, anchored just behind a consolidated Edison plant and across the river from Linden, New Jersey, was reported drifting toward the plant.

Fire spokesman Efrain Parrilla said three marine boats were on the scene. US Coast Guard officials said they also sent three coast guard vessels.

Residents on the western side of the island reported feeling the explosion.

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41m Soviets live below poverty line

MOSCOW, March 7, (Reuters). About one-seventh of the Soviet population, 41 million people, live below the poverty line, most of them in the strife-torn southern republics, the progressive weekly Moscow News reported today.

The fewest number of poor live in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, the formerly independent Baltic republics absorbed into the Soviet Union in 1940 after a pact between Soviet dictator Josef Stalin and Nazi German leader Adolf Hitler.

The figures were given in a two-page investigative report titled "below the line," which dramatised the plight of the poor by

giving case histories of a single mother, an invalid and a family of seven.

It was accompanied by photographs of an old woman eating beans out of a can, another rummaging through garbage for scraps of food, and younger women and children preparing a meal under clothes lines in a cramped communal kitchen.

According to the author, investigative reporter Vladimir Guryevich, 41 million of the Soviet Union's approximately 280 million people have incomes of less than 78 roubles (\$125) per month — the official poverty level.

The average urban monthly wage in the

Soviet Union is 250 roubles (\$400), about half of which goes for food.

The appearance of the article underlined the problems President Mikhail Gorbachev faces as he tries to reform the economy through his five-year-old perestroika campaign, a drive which has been long on oratory and short on results.

As with the general population, those below the poverty line spend about half their income on food, Moscow News reported. The rest goes on clothing and other necessities.

● Yelena Bonner, widow of late Soviet dissident physicist Andrei Sakharov, sharply criticised Gorbachev, saying the Soviet people has lost confidence in his policies.

She particularly slammed the Soviet army intervention in the ethnic strife in Azerbaijan and said she feared, as a result of the massacres there, Gorbachev might go down in history "not as the author of perestroika, but as the author of a genocide."

● Official election returns trickling in appeared to bear out pro-democracy movements' claims of widespread victories in the country's Slavic heartland but also showed Soviet officialdom winning several key races.

Gorbachev says no to one Germany in Nato

Kohl assures: 'there won't be a fourth reich'

MOSCOW, March 7, (Agencies). The Soviet Union warned West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl to curb his rush towards unification with East Germany and declared it would not tolerate a single German state in the Nato camp.

"We cannot give our agreement to this (Nato membership). It is absolutely excluded," President Mikhail Gorbachev said in a television

interview yesterday after talks with East German Prime Minister Hans Modrow.

Kohl refused a crisis that split his centre-right coalition and caused alarm abroad by backing down on a demand that a united Germany should formally recognise Poland's Western border only if Warsaw reaffirmed a 1953 renunciation of claims for war reparations from

Germany. He denied at an election rally in East Germany that Germans intended to build a "fourth reich" and said he wanted Poles to live with secure borders.

Gorbachev repeated his insistence that the rights of all European countries, particularly those sharing a border with Germany, should be taken into account in "step-by-step" moves to unification.

"In such weighty questions involving fundamental issues like the interests of different peoples, it is unacceptable to act hastily, in a rush," he said.

Six-nation talks on German unification, involving officials from East and West Germany and the four victorious World War II allies, will begin next week, the White House announced yesterday.

But the date and venue of the meeting of senior officials — the first of the "two-plus-four forum" — had still not been decided.

In East Berlin, the Foreign Ministry said East and West German would begin preparatory talks this week on a merger.

Gorbachev's comments to Soviet and East and West German journalists was the clearest statement so far of Kremlin objections to a Warsaw Pact East Germany belonging to the US-led North Atlantic Treaty Organisation after unification.



Modrow (left) jokes with Gorbachev during their meeting at the Kremlin. (Reuters wirephoto)

Gorbachev acknowledged Kohl had "corrected" a lack of clarity on the issue of guaranteeing Poland's post-World War Two borders.

In the East German city of Magdeburg, Kohl told a rally for a conservative party alliance running in the country's first free elections on March 18: "We Germans want the Poles to live in secure borders."

He added: "I take very seriously what is said abroad about the fear of a united Germany. But those who know us

know there will be no fourth reich. A united Germany will remain a dynamic force in the European Economic Community ... (and) part of a peaceful Europe."

Kohl was heckled and whistled by about 250 left-wing militants during his speech. But he told a crowd of about 10,000 East Germans: "God bless our German fatherland."

Kohl may not like it but more than a million Polish victims of Nazism are preparing to hand him a bill for compensation.

According to a recently established Association of Polish Victims of Nazism, they are acting 40 years late, mainly because Poland's former communist rulers mismanaged the war reparations issue for decades while banning any private initiative.

Modrow urged West Germany today to immediately begin working out a border treaty with East Germany and Poland on recognising Poland's western frontier rather than wait for German reunification.

GDR adopts right to strike

EAST BERLIN, March 7, (AP). Parliament yesterday adopted a new labour law that recognizes the right to strike for the first time in East Germany's 40-year history, while forbidding employers from locking out workers.

The simultaneous embrace of one capitalist economic lever and rejection of another highlights the indecision gripping East Germans as they begin considering how to merge their nation with West Germany.

Members of Parliament praised the new labour code that mixes market-style reforms with traditional socialist protections, but some conceded it is likely to stir protest among West German investors and employers eyeing unification.

The labour law was passed by a sizeable majority of the 385 lawmakers present for what was expected to be the last session of the 500-member people's chamber prior to the nation's first-ever competitive elections on March 18. Only six voted against the measure, with 53 abstentions.

A new 400-member Parliament will be elected in the balloting that is less than two weeks away, and the future of the new labour law may rest with the new legislative body.

Many of the labour principles embodied in the law mirrored those in the West, but they require implementing legislation that will have to be tackled after the new Parliament is seated.

The strike clause, however, is among the changes that will take effect next week.

East German lawmakers touted the no-lockout clause as a right of workers not enjoyed in West Germany.

But the law also may slow the West German investment considered essential to turning around the flagging East German economy.

Communist lawmaker Kaethe Niederkirchner said the broad protection for unions likely would disturb the capitalists seeking to build plants or engage in joint production operations in East Germany. Niederkirchner cited a statement by a West German business official that the law would be a "hindrance to inter-German economic co-operation."



Kohl allays anxiety

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said on Tuesday Germans intended no "Fourth Reich" in national unification and wanted neighbouring Poles to live in secure borders. Kohl sought to calm international anxiety arising from his equivocal stand on Poland's postwar frontiers when he appeared at a rally for a Conservative Party alliance running in East Germany's first free elections on March 18. "Let me say this. We Germans want the Poles to live in secure borders. That is the aim of peaceful policy," Kohl told a rally in Magdeburg for a Conservative Party alliance running in East Germany's first free elections on March 18.

UK under fire on North Sea

Britain came under heavy fire from its European neighbours Wednesday for moving too slowly to clean up the North Sea, one of the world's most contaminated salt water bodies.

At a conference on North Sea pollution, Norway, Sweden and Denmark sharply criticised the British government for its failure to halt sea dumping of industrial waste and sewage by the end of last year.

In a letter to British Environment Secretary Chris Patten, his three Scandinavian counterparts expressed dissatisfaction about London's announcement that it planned to phase out industrial waste dumping by late 1992 or early 1993. (AP)

Romanian elections threatened: A Romanian opposition leader told Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Members of Parliament on Tuesday that free elections in Romania are threatened because communists control the government, the media and the economy.

Ion Raicu, the 72-year-old president of the World Union of Free Romanians said the National Salvation Front, which took power in the December revolution that toppled communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, has taken over the old Communist Party structure and is using it to help win the May 20 general election. (AP)

Turkey welcomes Bulgarian law: Turkey yesterday welcomed legislation in Bulgaria giving free choice of names as a step forward in resolving the plight of ethnic Turks in the neighbouring country.

"The law is a positive step but we are not sure about implementation. There are vague elements," said Murat Sengul, spokesman of the Foreign Ministry, at his weekly briefing to reporters.

"According to our experience, sometimes laws and practice do not match in Bulgaria," he said. (AP)

Argentina and Britain to hold talks: A meeting between British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Carlos Menem, the Argentine President, will take place in London on Thursday based on the general election in the UK in around two years time, British MPs now believe.

The view gained ground as George Foulkes, the Labour Party's foreign affairs spokesman, has disclosed to the British media that President Menem has told him privately he wanted to invite Thatcher to Argentina, once diplomatic relations were restored between the two countries.

Observers said now that this has happened, the major obstacle has been removed. (Kuna)

Coming out of shell

ATHENS, March 7, (Reuters). Isolated Albania joined other Balkan states today in talks to boost economic and technological co-operation in a strategic region swept by political change.

Albania, last hardline communist state in Europe, is likely to host a regional foreign ministers' meeting in October.

This is expected outcome of a three-day conference in Athens of senior Foreign Ministry officials from Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Turkey and Yugoslavia.

Thousands call unity of Czechs and Slovaks



Havel and his wife Olga honour the memory of Czechoslovakia's first president Tomas Garrigue Masaryk at a cemetery in Lany, near Prague. (Reuters wirephoto)

BRATISLAVA, Czechoslovakia, March 7, (AP). Tens of thousands rallied yesterday in a show of unity between Czechs and Slovaks and of opposition against communist legislators in the Slovak Parliament.

Czechoslovakia is comprised of the Czech lands and Slovakia, and the rally was meant as an expression of Slovak opposition against alleged communist attempts to sow discord among the two nationalities.

"Some people would like to see Slovaks fighting the Czechs as another source of conflict," Slovak Interior Minister Vladimir Meciar told the rally in a nationally televised speech.

The National Council, Slovakia's parliament, recently

passed a controversial proposal that would change the country's name to the "Federation, Czechoslovakia," in an attempt to stress the equal status of both nations within the country. The proposal would have to be approved by the federal parliament, and passage is unlikely.

The move was considered by many moderate Slovaks to be an unnecessary challenge to the Czech part of the country that could inflame passions between the two groups. There have been suggestions that communist deputies — a minority in the 150-member National Council — had actively lobbied the majority independent legislators for support for the proposal.

Shev, first ever Soviet FM to visit Africa

MOSCOW, March 7, (UPI). Eduard Shevardnadze will visit Africa this month in the first trip by a Soviet foreign minister to the giant continent and may meet Secretary of State James Baker in Namibia, the government announced yesterday.

The much travelled Shevardnadze will visit five African countries this month — Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Angola and Namibia. Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov said at the daily press briefing.

"It is a rather long trip," Gerasimov said. "It is the first by a Soviet foreign minister to Africa."

Unlike Andrei Gromyko whom he replaced as foreign minister in 1986, Shevardnadze has conducted a wider ranging foreign policy that is not centred exclusively on relations with the United States and Europe.

The visit to Africa further represents Mikhail Gorbachev's new political thinking for which Shevardnadze has been the advance man in his travels to Asia, South Africa, Europe and Canada and the United States.

Sofia opposition get air wave time

SOFIA, March 7, (AP). The National Assembly yesterday gave pro-democracy opposition groups access to the state-run broadcast media during campaigning for communist-ruled Bulgaria's first free elections set for June.

The statute applies to both radio and television, authority for which has been transferred from the central government to the increasingly independent parliament.

The measure was seen as an effort to depoliticise the state media, but it was still not clear how independent they will be in future.

The duration of the broadcasts and other details are to be laid down in an electoral law that has been delayed in parliament because of suspension of round-table talks last month between the ruling communists and the opposition Union of Democratic Forces, along with other groups.

On Monday, the first day of a two-day session, the legislature enacted a law restoring the names of more than 1 million ethnic Turks and other Muslims. They had been forced to adopt Bulgarian-sounding names in a forced assimilation campaign that peaked in 1984-85 under the communists.

Deputies said the wording of the media law modelled after regulations currently in force in several West European countries.

The statute stipulates that "radio and television must be objective. They must not serve one party or group." It also says that commentaries, whenever reflecting the official view, must be qualified as representing "the personal opinion of the commentators."

According to the new statute, the chairman of radio and TV will be proposed by the government and elected by the national assembly. The broadcast media will be controlled by a committee of eight deputies and seven other prominent figures.

Lithuania told to pay price for independence

MOSCOW, March 7, (Reuters). President Mikhail Gorbachev has told Lithuania how much it owes Moscow and hinted repayment of billions of roubles might be the price for independence, Vilnius Radio reported.

It said Gorbachev had unexpected talks with Algirdas Brazauskas, the head of the Baltic Republic's parliament, in Moscow yesterday.

The broadcast said Moscow estimated Lithuania owed the central government 17 billion roubles (\$27 billion) for capital investment in the republic and four billion roubles (\$6 billion) for undelivered production.

The independence drive in Lithuania, which, like its Baltic neighbours Estonia and Latvia, was incorporated into the Soviet Union in 1940, has prompted calls for monetary compensation by the government in Moscow.

Meanwhile, Ukrainian nationalists announced plans yesterday to create a formal opposition party to press for an independent republic after achieving a major success in the Soviet regional elections last weekend.

"They said they will starve to death if the government does not respond reasonably to their demands," said one Mongolian-speaking foreign resident who spoke to the strikers.

The hunger strike was threatened in an ultimatum handed to the government on Sunday by the four democracy groups after about 25,000 people marched on parliament.

Mongolian reform-seekers start hunger strike

BEIJING, March 7, (Reuters). Twelve Mongolian democracy activists began a hunger strike in Ulan Bator's Central Square today to press demands for the resignation of President Zhambyn Batmunk and hundreds of Communist Party officials, witnesses said.

Ulan Bator residents contacted by telephone said the twelve were leaders of the Mongolian Democratic Association, the biggest of four newly-formed groups calling for an end to the country's 69-year-old communist system.

"They said they will starve to death if the government does not respond reasonably to their demands," said one Mongolian-speaking foreign resident who spoke to the strikers.

The hunger strike was threatened in an ultimatum handed to the government on Sunday by the four democracy groups after about 25,000 people marched on parliament.

The ultimatum demanded the resignations of the president along with the entire party Politburo, Central Committee, and the Council of Ministers in parliament.

It called for an emergency session of parliament this month to elect new leaders. Successive broadcasts by state radio since last night have ruled out an emergency meeting of parliament, the Great People's Hural, and failed to mention resignations.

"The radio said that stopping the workings of the Great People's Hural was against the constitution," said one foreign resident.

She said the strikers had huddled into a circle before the towering colonnades of parliament at about 14.30 local time (0630 GMT), wrapped in furs against the winter frost.

Tonight, when temperatures are expected to plummet to about minus 12 Centigrade (10 degrees Fahrenheit), they plan

to pitch a tent in the central Sukhbaatar Square and crawl inside, the resident said.

A foreign diplomat in Ulan Bator said the radio broadcasts showed the government, which has made repeated concessions to the democracy movement, was taking a tougher line.

"It looks more like a confrontation of some sort is looming," said the diplomat.

Today's action recalls similar protests in Beijing last year, when hundreds of students demonstrating for more democracy staged hunger strikes in central Tiananmen Square. The strikes drew wide support from Beijing citizens who flocked to the square to sympathise.

Troops and tanks thundered into Beijing on June 4 to crush the student-led movement, killing hundreds, perhaps thousands of people.

Demands for democracy have gathered pace in Mongolia, a vast land between the Soviet Union and China, since last Decem-

ber when the first opposition movement was formed.

Thousands of protesters have swarmed onto the streets of Ulan Bator seven times since then to demand multi-party democracy. Last Sunday's rally was the biggest yet.

A top official, B. Lavantsuren, planned Sunday's roaring crowd by promising the ultimatum would be answered by today. It was not clear whether the radio broadcasts were authorities' final reply.

The government has granted de facto recognition to the opposition groups and publicly criticised itself for embracing reform too cautiously.

Top officials have told foreign journalists they could envisage a multi-party system and indicated that the nation's constitution will be amended this year to lay the legal groundwork for contested elections.



Mongolians bearing a banner demonstrate against the ruling communist party. (Reuters wirephoto)

Sudan-Libya pact

KHARTOUM, March 7, (Reuters): Sudan and Libya have signed an agreement to pave the way for the two countries to merge in four years, state Radio Omdurman reported today.

It said the integration pact was signed separately by military ruler Omar Hassan Al-Bashir for Sudan and by Colonel Muammar Khaddafi for Libya. The radio did not say when the pact was signed.

Hippocratic oath

NICOSIA, March 7, (Reuters): Iran yesterday scrapped the Hippocratic oath for doctors, saying they should take an Islamic one instead.

"The Hippocratic oath contradicts the divine Sharia (Islamic law) and hence has been ruled null and void," the Iranian news agency Irna quoted deputy Health Minister Shahabeddin Sadr as saying.

Animal deaths

ISTANBUL, March 7, (AP): A fire broke out in a tent at an exhibition centre yesterday, killing at least 15 animals of the Moscow state circus, officials said in Istanbul.

Abdurrahman Kilic, the head of the Istanbul fire department, said llamas, horses, kangaroos and dogs burned to death in their cages inside an exhibition tent at the Hurriyet Exhibition Centre in the downtown Sali district.

Communist call

ALGIERS, March 7, (Reuters): Algeria's Communist Party has called for an immediate meeting of all political parties to discuss a common platform to confront the country's economic crisis.

"Algeria will hold multi-party elections on June 12, its first such poll since independence in 1962, the government said today."

Iran, Iraq talks

UNITED NATIONS, March 7, (Reuters): Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar held separate meetings yesterday with the UN representatives of Iran and Iraq to hand them the proposed agenda for a new round of peace talks between their foreign ministers.

Jordan affirms

AMMAN, March 7, (KUNA): Secretary-General of Amnesty International Ian Martin who is currently visiting Jordan met yesterday with Jordanian Prime Minister Mudhar Badran.

In the discussions that dealt with human rights issues, Badran affirmed that the Jordanian constitution grants the "citizen" rights as advocated by Islamic principles and the international human rights declaration.

Carter visit

ATLANTA, March 7, (Reuters): Former US President Jimmy Carter will visit the Middle East for two weeks from Sunday, a spokeswoman said yesterday.

Carter will visit Egypt, Syria, Jordan, the occupied West Bank and Israel to meet with heads of state, business and civic leaders and members of religious and academic communities, said the spokeswoman, Carrie Harmon.

Bus-trailer crash

CAIRO, March 7, (AP): A runaway trailer carrying tons of corn (maize) smashed into a crowded bus, splitting it in two and killing 14 passengers near a Nile Delta provincial centre, a senior police officer said today.

Maj. Gen. Reda Abdel-Aziz, police chief in Sharkia province northeast of Cairo, said 28 passengers were injured, 13 seriously.

Asylum claims

LONDON, March 7, (AP): Six Lebanese men who fled from Beirut, won a High Court decision yesterday forcing the government to consider asylum seekers who do not have British visas but stop here on tickets to other countries.

Justice Lord Schiemann quashed the Home Office's refusal to consider asylum applications by the six. The Home Office, which had ordered the men removed from Britain, said it would appeal.

Turning to desert

NICOSIA, March 7, (Reuters): Iran is losing about a million hectares (2.47 million acres) of forest and pasture a year because of overgrazing and excessive tree felling, Tehran Radio said yesterday. The annual losses represent about one per cent of Iran's total forest and pasture area, according to official figures.

Zionism backed

GENEVA, March 7, (AP): The United States yesterday denounced a 15-year-old UN General Assembly resolution equating Zionism to racism as a "disgrace" for the world body and urged that it be scrapped.

Addressing the UN human rights commission, Ambassador Morton B. Abramson said that Zionism "has been a model for all honourable national liberation movements."

He said Zionism and racism are "total contradictions" as proved in the state of Israel as the realisation of the Zionist idea where Jews of all colours could find a home.

Geagea hopes

JOUNIEH, Lebanon, March 7, (AP): Christian warlord Samir Geagea said yesterday he believes the latest truce in his confrontation with renegade Gen. Michel Aoun will endure.

"Nothing can be solved by war. I think this ceasefire will hold," said Geagea, who was interviewed at a forward militia command post in Jounieh, north of Beirut.

Soviet minister

CAIRO, March 7, (UPI): Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Polyakov today stopped over in Cairo for talks with Egyptian officials, and was later scheduled to head for Saudi Arabia and North Yemen. Egypt's official Middle East News Agency (Mena) reported.



Arafat honours

PLO chairman Yasser Arafat lays a wreath at the National Monument in Kuala Lumpur on Wednesday. Arafat, who was on a three-day visit to Malaysia, left for home later in the day. (Reuters wirephoto)

Top Turkey journalist shot dead in Istanbul

ISTANBUL, March 7, (Reuters): A top Turkish journalist, a vociferous critic of political extremism and Muslim fundamentalism, was shot dead today in what appeared to be a political assassination.

Cetin Emec, a board member and columnist of the mass-circulation daily Hurriyet, was shot seven times by at least two gunmen as he left his Istanbul home for work, police said.

"The cold-blooded killing of Emec, 55, follows a similar murder of Turkey's law association president, Muammer Aksoy, in Ankara last January."

Prominent journalists and academics were targets during political extremism which hit Turkey in the late 1970s. It led to a coup in 1980 and three years of harsh military rule.

"I saw at least two men aged about 25 approach Mr Emec's car as he was about to leave. I saw them shooting at him. They were not wearing masks," Mrs Muazzez Yazar, who lives opposite Emec's apartment near the Bosphorus waterway, told Reuters.

Her husband, Rasit, said: "I heard nine shots. This is a disaster. Some people are trying to create chaos like our yesterday."

Emec's driver was also shot dead as he stood beside the car. Police at the scene, in the wealthy, tree-lined residential district of Snatye on the Asian side of Istanbul, said they had no immediate clue to the identities of the gunmen.

Emec had written several recent columns on political violence for Hurriyet, Turkey's largest selling newspaper and a staunch advocate of the mainly Muslim country's secular ideals.

"Socio-economic imbalances, wide differences in religious beliefs and poverty are causing people to take part in terrorist acts," he wrote in his last article, published today.

Emec and his driver, Ali Sinan Ercan, were rushed to Istanbul's Toztepe Hospital but were dead on arrival. Three bullets hit Emec's heart. Ercan was shot from behind.

Blood drenched the back seat of Emec's Ford saloon car and a copy of his newspaper. A side window was shattered by bullets.

"We have seen his film before," said former Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel, who led coalition governments in the 1970s and now heads the opposition centre-right True Path Party.

"Turkey has neither the time nor the patience to watch this film again... the masks of the people perpetrating this latest attack must be removed immediately," he told reporters.

Brotherhood's jihad call

AMMAN, March 7, (Reuters): The Muslim Brotherhood has demanded that the liberation of all Palestine should be a main plank in a national charter proposed by King Hussein to regulate Jordan's political life.

"Liberation of Palestine from the (Mediterranean) sea to the (Jordan) river is an Islamic duty... and the responsibility of all Muslims and Arabs," the Brotherhood reiterated in a manifesto published in local newspapers today.

"Jihad (holy war) with money and soul is the solution for preserving and defending the nation against the Zionist threat," said the 18-point manifesto, dated March 1.

The Muslim Brotherhood, which controls about a third of the seats in the lower house of parliament elected in November, is the most powerful political organisation in Jordan.

The goal of liberating all Palestine runs counter to Jordan's long-standing acceptance of Israel's presence and its support for UN resolutions proposing peace and secure borders in exchange for Arab lands occupied by Israel in 1967.

Officials say King Hussein will soon name a royal commission representing Islamists, communists and all political opinions in between to draft a national charter that would set guidelines for some sort of multi-party political system.

The Brotherhood manifesto, marking out the group's position in advance, suggests that a tough struggle may await the commission in its attempt to distil national principles acceptable to all the political trends in Jordan.

"Islam is the nation's faith and civilisation, the source of its laws and the guide for its policies," it said.

Tunis reluctant to allow shift of AL

CAIRO, March 7, (UPI): Tunisian President Zein Al-Abedine Ben Ali arrived in Cairo yesterday on a three-day official visit, the first by a Tunisian head of state in 25 years.

Egyptian Foreign Ministry officials said Ben Ali and Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak were expected to tackle a wide range of African, Arab and international issues. Their talks, which Egypt's Foreign Ministry said would start this morning, would also focus on improving bilateral trade and wider economic co-operation with the oil-rich Gulf Co-operation Council.

But one issue of contention between the

two Arab states remains the location of the headquarters of the 22-member Arab League.

League headquarters were based in Cairo until 1979, when Egypt became the first Arab state to sign a peace treaty with Israel. Arab States then decided to transfer the headquarters to Tunisia, in a move Egypt charged was a violation of the organisation's charter.

Since then, Egypt has restored relations with all Arab states, including radical nations such as Syria and Libya, and is now seeking the transfer of the Arab League headquarters back to Cairo.

Egypt has also assumed a leading role in

the Mideast peace process, and is representing the Palestine Liberation Organisation in talks with the United States and Israel, which it hopes will lead to a first ever Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

Arab newspapers said the headquarters issue would be on the agenda of talks between Ben Ali and Mubarak.

Tunisia, which built a special headquarters for the Arab League in Tunis, has so far been reluctant to accept its transfer back to Cairo.

Egypt, which is currently renovating the old Arab League Cairo headquarters building, has said it would be willing to accept Tunis as the temporary headquarters of

the Arab League, but Cairo would have to be the organisation's permanent home.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel-Meguid said the model could work on similar lines to the United Nations, which has its permanent base in New York, but on occasion has also met in Geneva.

Ben Ali, whose country also serves as the headquarters for the Palestine Liberation Organisation and has hosted regular US-PLO talks, told a Cairo newspaper before his arrival in Egypt that it was for Arab leaders to decide where the Arab League headquarters should be.

Libyans making poison gas: US

WASHINGTON, March 7, (AP): US officials say Libya is now producing limited amounts of mustard and nerve gas useable as chemical weapons.

The Rabta plant 60 miles (96 kilometres) south of Tripoli also is now capable of producing caustic soda, the officials said last night on condition that they not be identified.

Libya denied today a US television report that it was producing chemical weapons.

The Libyan news agency (Jana) issued its denial shortly before Washington officially accused Tripoli of manufacturing chemical arms.

The officials said the Libyans over several months had kept the assembly line active but only toward the end of last year achieved what one official called a "certain operational capability" that it did not have before.

"They haven't got enough to go into full production, but they can keep producing at this level," one of the officials said.

Libya has consistently denied that it was building a plant to produce chemical weapons, and has said the Rabta plant was for pharmaceuticals.

West German politicians said a month ago that Libya had produced enough gas for 1,000 artillery shells. After that, US officials said the Rabta plant had been producing "very small" quantities of chemicals for about a year.

Yesterday's disclosure was that production has increased. "Mustard gas, used in World War I, is an extremely irritating gas that blisters the skin. Nerve gases, developed by Nazi Germany in World War II, but never used, kill by disrupting the normal transmission of nerve impulses."

There was no official comment from the State Department. But spokesman Mark Dillon, without confirming Libya's resurgent chemical weapons programme said: "We remain seriously concerned about the Rabta weapons facility. We have continuously taken various efforts to assure that Libya and other proliferators do not succeed in achieving full-scale weapons production."

At a White House state dinner last night, Secretary of State James Baker declined to discuss the Libyan plant with reporters, saying, "it's classified."

National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft said, "I don't know anything about it."

Libyan leader Muammar Khaddafi has ridiculed the work of the country's parliament, saying he could not believe its proposals reflected the true opinions of the Libyans people.

Khaddafi, proclaimed Libya's inflexible leader by the law-makers earlier this week, criticised corruption, favouritism, nepotism and abuse of influence throughout the administration.

"You won't get to paradise the way you are going... if we carry on like this, we will be colonised again," he said last night referring to Libya's former colonial ruler Italy.

The General People's Congress, which is meant to formulate policy based on the views of local assemblies, has demanded lower taxes and free health care, education and other services from government departments.

Peres favours PLO role in peace

Vote on talks put off

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 7, (Agencies): Vice-Premier Shimon Peres, in remarks unusual for an Israeli leader, said today it was unrealistic to think the PLO could be excluded from Middle East peace efforts.

It was the farthest any leader of a major Israeli party had gone towards admitting a peace role for the Palestine Liberation Organisation, officially branded by Israel as a "terrorist" group bent on destroying the Jewish state.

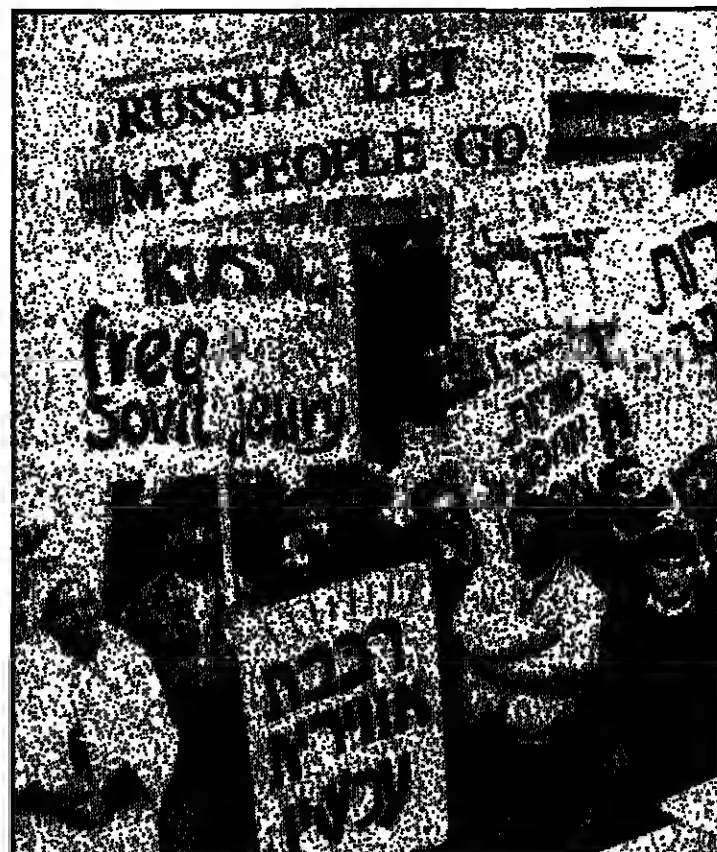
Peres, the Labour Party leader, attacked the rightist Likud Party of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir just before the inner cabinet meeting which postponed a vote on a US compromise proposal until Sunday.

The inner cabinet met for more than two hours before adjourning without a decision, Israel radio reported.

Immediately after the cabinet session, Labour ministers met and scheduled a conference Monday of the party's central committee to consider leaving the coalition government if the inner cabinet did not approve the US proposal Sunday.

"Have they just realised the PLO is in the picture? Don't they know the Americans are in touch with the PLO? Don't they know Egypt is in contact with the PLO? Don't they know what has happened up to now? Only now have they discovered all that is going on around them?" Peres told Israel radio.

Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said he was sure a "very concerted effort" will be made by his country's divided governing coalition to reach agreement on Sunday regarding unprece-



Left and right-wing Israelis demonstrate along with Russian immigrants outside the prime minister's house. (Reuters wirephoto)

ted Israeli-Palestinian talks.

Shamir did not respond immediately to Peres comments, but Yossi Olmert, his appointee at the head of the government press office, told Reuters:

"We are totally and firmly committed to the policy of no negotiation with the PLO. And we believe there is a national consensus in Israel about that."

Public opinion polls show Israelis divided over whether to talk to the PLO. Some surveys suggest Israel would negotiate under certain conditions.

Transport Minister Moshe Katsav of Likud told Israel radio: "We are speaking of issues

essential to Israel's very survival. We are beginning negotiations unprecedented in the 42 years of our history. There is no reason to rush."

Aides to Shamir said he may not put the issue to a vote at the meeting of the 12-member inner cabinet despite Labour's threat to leave the government and yet another public call by US Secretary of State James Baker for an Israeli decision.

"Mr Shamir will bring the issue to the inner cabinet and will discuss it, but what will come out of that—whether the discussion will end and there will be a vote—nobody knows," Avi Pazner, his media adviser, told Reuters.

Ethiopia details out its economic reform plan

ADDIS ABABA, March 7, (UPI): Ethiopia's ruling Workers' Party today laid out in detail plans for political and economic reform, effectively reversing 15 years of hardline socialism modelled on the Soviet Union and the East Bloc.

President Mengistu Haile Mariam had announced Monday that changes were to be made to reflect reforms elsewhere in the socialist world. He said limited political opposition would be tolerated, and peasants allowed to own their own food produce.

The plenary meeting of the Workers' Party central committee which followed endorsed the president's speech.

It said peasants would be allowed to own the land they till, and would have the right to transfer it to their children by inheritance.

The country's agricultural marketing corporation would be abolished, it said, and peasants would no longer be compelled to sell all their produce to the government at pre-set prices.

Western relief officials have said that the series of famines which have wrought havoc in Ethiopia in the past decade were due in part to the government's refusal to allow peasants to own and store crops.

The committee confirmed the Workers' Party would change its name to the Democratic Unity of the Ethiopian people.

It called on all Ethiopians to work together to improve life in the impoverished country, currently divided by two simultaneous civil wars.

It deplored Ethiopia's inability to bring these wars to a peaceful conclusion.

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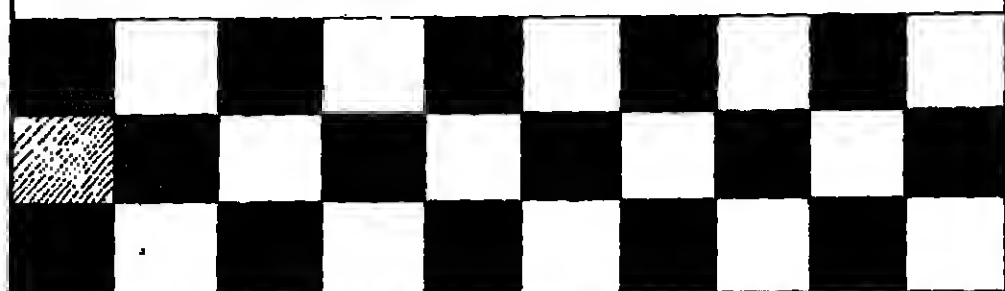
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This is essential for the speedy checking of claims. Entries received without names and initials as mentioned above will be disqualified.

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card and copy card and filled in your name and address, send in your entries, by post, addressed to:

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RULES

1. There is no entry fee, but all entries must be on separate ARAB TIMES forms and only entries from one competitor may be enclosed in the same envelope.
2. The number of each day's list will be read from left to right with the left hand number being the first of the day. The order then continues to the right. Claimants with one number will have preference over claimants with two or more numbers.
3. All the claimants' entries will be opened at 1 pm on the day claims are made and depending upon the correct clue and all numbers checked being correct, the last number checked off by the claimant will be the criterion for awarding the prizes according to the priority of the number published on that day from left to right.
4. If there is a tie, the winning name will be drawn from a hat.
5. The decision of the judges is final and no correspondence can be entered into. Employees of the Arab Times and Al-Seyassah Organisation and their families are not eligible to enter.
6. No responsibility can be accepted for delayed or missing entries, or altered or mutilated entries although the date franked on envelopes will be accepted so long as it is prior to the competition starting date. Envelopes without names, initials on the back, initials in front, and those received after the closing time detailed on this form will be disqualified.
7. No numbers at any time will be told over the telephone.
8. Claims must be on the same day's numbers. Claims with previous day's numbers will not be entertained.

Third channel at KTV may be set up

Censorship continues

THE Director of Programmes Department at Kuwait Television Bader Al-Mudhaf has been quoted as saying that the Ministry of Information is studying the possibility of setting up a new independent third channel.

In an interview with a local daily Mudhaf said that the programmes of the proposed channel will be drawn up in accordance with the desire of viewers.

The official also disclosed that new educational programmes addressing students problems will be presented soon after the pertinent plan which had been set

up in co-operation with the Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Education has been finalised.

The Research Office at the Ministry of Information is currently engaged in studying proposals of viewers on TV programmes, Mudhaf said. He added that positive proposals will be entertained in view of the importance of the wishes of the viewing public.

Serials

He disclosed that KTV will produce a Kuwaiti programme identical to the Egyptian one called "The Secret Camera". He

added that KTV will also present different new serials produced by several countries.

Meanwhile, the official clarified that developments between Kuwait Television and its counterparts in the Arab Gulf countries was currently underway and will be carried out through the Gulf Television Station.

Censorship

He added that the minister of information has called for studying of the programmes to be broadcast via satellite. The official confirmed that strict control

is imposed on the Kuwait TV's second programme. He added that this programme has never broadcast anything contradicting with the country's traditions and customs. He further clarified that the censor has banned the last part of Falcon Crest serial.

He said that Ramadan competitions this year will be presented differently and will include the well known programme "Seen-Jeen" (question-answer).

He disclosed that Kuwaiti plays could be televised six months after the stage debut.

Economic conference for Arabs suggested

By Mahmoud Abdeen

THE secretary-general of Arab Economic Unity Council Dr Yousef Ibrahim has called to hold an Arab economic conference for Arab experts and specialists to put a comprehensive plan and new Arab economic strategy to establish real Arab economic integration and an Arab common market as the EEC. He added that economic integration can be made through co-operation and co-ordination among the three Arab co-operation councils (GCC, Maghreb, and Arab Co-operation Council). This will enable these Arab gatherings to face challenges of the big economic groups and allies in the world during 1990s.

Without lobbies any state or some limited states will not be able to develop successfully and face challenges of foreign powers, he said. The Arab countries will face serious crises and big difficulties without having the lobby or integration. But he added that Arab countries achieved some Arab economic unity.

The Arab Economic Unity Council merged from the Arab Economic Unity Agreement which is considered the most important Arab economic document because it came in an early stage in 1957. But the agreement was carried out in 1964, but the Arab countries joined the agreement very slowly. Only 7 countries joined the agreement till the end of 1960s and only 13 Arab countries signed the agreement until the end of the 1970s.

Legislation

The council had advanced steps to unify customs procedures, unify customs legislations and to free commerce among Arab countries from administrative restrictions.

The developments after the Arab-Israeli war in 1973, reduction of oil incomes of the Arab Gulf states and the Iraq-Iran war delayed the growth of the council and hindered its projects. The Arab countries suffered increasing debt during the 1980s that affected the development plans of these countries and accordingly affected the commercial exchange among Arab countries.

The Arab countries stopped economic movement and activities among them and had a trend to establish regional allies by establishment of co-operation councils. The stoppage of financial payments to the council by some Arab countries beside paying other Arab organisations paralysed their activities and projects. But he added that the councils have passed this stage now and have begun a new stage after revising plans and projects. He added that the secretary of the AECU had financial obligations of \$5 million but its budget for this year is only \$1.15 million.

Dr Ibrahim praised Kuwait's role in reviving Arab joint work. He added that Kuwait was the first Arab state that joined the Arab Economic Unity Agreement.

Suicide investigation

SECURITY personnel are investigating the case of a man who is alleged to have committed suicide by hanging himself with a towel tied to his ceiling fan.

Preliminary investigations revealed that the man, who was a bachelor, had been a recluse for the past fortnight and his car was parked outside his apartment for the entire period. Neighbours who disclosed this information, added that he seldom received any visitors and was termed a "loner".

Police were called in to investigate a foul odour emanating from the apartment of the deceased and had to break into the apartment to gain access.



Mangaf Health Centre opened

Planning Minister and Acting Health Minister Dr Abdul Rahman Al-Awadi opened the Mangaf Specialised Health Centre, Tuesday. Ahmad Governor, Sheikh Ali Sabah Al-Salem and many senior officials attended the inauguration. Awadi presented shields to the Ahmad governor and head of the centre. The guests toured the various sections of the new centre.

Masterplan being upgraded

Shops in model areas to be demolished soon

KUWAIT Municipality is reportedly giving deadlines to owners of shops located in model areas to sort out their situation prior to the removal of these shops. It is noteworthy that the municipality has on more than one occasion extended the deadline in order that the owners of these shops could find a place to relocate their businesses.

A local daily has followed up a number of service projects in the country which seek, besides sorting out the existing uses, and eliminating functional duplication, to provide new services, resolve traffic problems and re-arrange areas affected by the needed repairs.

The paper said that Kuwait Municipality is currently involved in considering the continual upgrading and development of the existing masterplan for the State of Kuwait. This encompasses making provisions for the construction and allocation of new residential areas in different locations in the country to cater to the future needs, whether in the existing urban suburbs or towns proposed for construction in Subiya, Khiran and other areas.

As to the future housing projects, the Municipality is co-ordinating with the National Housing Authority and the Higher Housing Council to define the space area for the proposed future housing blocks inside the city and in the urban extensions to be constructed in future.

Efforts continue, meanwhile, to find suitable solutions to the existing housing problem, and recommendations were being adopted to lay down the constraints needed to ensure co-operation and social security in this regard.

Contract

Sources close to the municipality revealed that the municipality signed a contract for the updating and upgrading of the existing third version of the Kuwait Masterplan on January 6, 1990. The work is expected to take 18 months and cover the construction of new residential areas, laying down new planning constraints, carrying out a comprehensive study of Kuwaiti islands, conducting a study of the existing Kuwait ports and Kuwait International Airport, besides several other subjects.

As to the areas which are still under planning, the municipality is about to commission a new follow-up and updating system which would enable the

municipality to draw up accurate plans to complete the ongoing planning operations.

The Municipal Affairs Committee had meanwhile issued a number of decisions approving the issuance of building permits to the owners of space areas located in high-density areas of Ardiyah and South Sarrah.

Due to the great volume of private building works and ongoing renovation operations and filling of vacant plots and other public spaces, which have different places of the country, special municipal squads of inspectors would be assigned to carry out regular tours of project sites to ensure that the contractors were honouring contractual obligations. When the work had been completed a site clearance certificate would have to be obtained by the contractor from the relevant authorities to ensure that no construction material had been dumped around the site, without which the final guarantee deposited by the contractor would not be released.

An ad-hoc committee has been formed at the Planning Department to discuss the expropriation system on private residences and to put forward recommendations and necessary constraints to regulate the operation.

A detailed report would be submitted to the Municipal Affairs Committee on this subject for consideration and necessary action.

Sources close to the municipality revealed that the National Budgeting Commission had allocated KD100 millions for public appropriations in the current fiscal year.

The sources also revealed that of the major housing projects and land allotment activities to meet the growing population and cater to the demand projected for public houses in year 2010, new towns with fully integrated services and utilities were being planned and fitted into the masterplan.

The sources pointed out that following the segmentation of the country into five governorates, and the allocation of all needed services for each, including vegetables and fruits markets, factories, co-ops, cattle markets, and birds markets, a special study had been submitted to the Municipal Affairs Committee to approve the allocation of site for such services.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Student union

KUWAIT, March 7. (Kuna) The National Union of Kuwait Students will celebrate the 25th anniversary of its establishment under the patronage of HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah.

The celebrations will include a football game between teams of Al-Qadisia Club and the Kuwait University at 6 pm next Monday at Mohammed Al-Hamad Stadium of Qadisia Club in Hawalli.

Kuwaiti envoy

KUWAIT, March 7. (Kuna) Deputy Premier and Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed yesterday met the Kuwaiti Ambassador to the United States, Shaiman Al-Marjani.

Marjani arrived here last night to greet and take talks with President of the State, Abdullah Al-Salem, and to discuss Saturday.

Mwinyi in UAE

ABU DHABI, March 7. (Kuna) President of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al-Nahayan began official talks with the visiting Tanzanian President Ali Hassan Mwinyi today.

Discussions focussed on bilateral relations and means of developing them in various fields in addition to issues of common interests.

Earlier today, Mwinyi visited the petroleum exhibition here where he got acquainted on development of the oil industry in Abu Dhabi's onshore and offshore areas.

The Tanzanian president arrived here yesterday from Kuwait on a few days official visit.

Fahd message

SANAA, March 7. (Kuna) King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia has sent a message to North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

The message was delivered to President Saleh by Saudi Minister of State, Cabinet Member and Acting Information Minister Mohamed Ibrahim Masoud during a meeting with the North Yemeni leader in Sanaa today.

Radio Sanaa said the message deals with fraternal relations and issues of mutual interest.

Copyright law

SEYASSAH has learnt that the relevant official authorities have finished preparing a draft law on copyright which is expected to be the subject of discussion by the Council of Ministers soon before endorsement.

This law represents the first step towards providing literary protection to publications. Compensation and rights of authors will be protected by the law.

Anti-drug conference in Cairo

UNDER the joint auspices of the American Parents Resources Institute for Drug Education (Pride) and the American Cultural Centre in Cairo, the first annual conference on drug prevention in Cairo will be held from March 12 to 14, 1990.

The conference highlights will focus on "Education and Media in Preventing Drug Abuse: Practical Approaches that Work." Pride is active in reducing the demand for narcotics, through assisting in establishing similar organizations in Egypt and the rest of the world. Pride senior executives and Egyptian experts will be addressing the conference. Also, videotapes and other materials will be shown. Because the conference is a professional-level event, attendance will be limited to give everyone a chance to benefit from the expertise of those present.

The conference will be held at one of the major hotels in Cairo. There is no registration fee required. Those persons wishing to attend can make reservations through USIS, American Embassy, Kuwait. Programme details will be provided to them at a later date.



Time management training

As the need for time management grows ever stronger, Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC) is promoting an initiative to relieve time pressures being felt by executives in Kuwait.

KAC together with Sheraton Hotels are hosting a Practical Time Management Seminar being held on the 7th March in the Sheraton's Blue Room at 9.00 am.

Adel Y. Al-Shamali (director of Training & Development KAC) has been instrumental in encouraging senior personnel to attend this one-day seminar both from within the organisation and from government departments and key businesses in Kuwait. It is seen as a fast response to the needs of local businesses who are growing and seeking a more competitive edge in a modern market place.

The course will contain tips and technologies to

help senior executives manage their time more effectively and provide delegates with a manual for reference long after the completion of the seminar, which covers aspects like handling paperwork, meetings and interruptions.

The seminar is being led by Simon Naudi (managing director) of Answers Training International, who are experts in the field of tailored training courses. The "system" being used relies on the popular Filer Organiser (available locally in Kuwait).

Delegates attending will be received by the Adel Y. Al-Shamali (director Training & Development KAC), Holger Wessel (general manager, Kuwait Sheraton Hotel) and Paul Berger (managing director of Filer Limited).

Picture shows Simon Naudi, Paul Berger and Khamis Karzoun.

LAUGHLIN

Cancer agents in treated flour confirmed

Nutrition department to combat obesity

EXPERIMENTS on rats who have been provided drinking water laced with potassium bromide have been confirmed as developing cancer.

Speaking on this issue, the director of nutrition department at the Ministry of Public Health, Mrs. Fouzia Al-Awadhi said that experiments with potassium bromide on rats indicated that rats developed cancer of the kidneys and consequently the use of

bromide in treating flour has now become suspect.

Awadhi said that bromate is added to baking flour which is converted to bromide during the baking process and commented that according to reports of the World Health Organisation, food should be free of bromate prior to consumption. However, she conceded that WHO accepted a certain level of potassium

hromate in the treatment of flour — the acceptable level being 75 mg of the compound per kilo of flour.

She said that the department is presently engaged in short- and long-term strategy to combat obesity which is a cause of diabetes and the state has positively responded in the department's request by building walking paths in different housing areas. The encouragement of

undertaking medical tests prior to marriage have also received positive response, the official said.

Statistically speaking, Awadhi said that 9,535 Kuwaiti citizens and 11,996 non-Kuwaitis visited the clinics of the department last year.

The ministry has agreed to open a central clinic for nutrition in the near future to meet the

increasing demands of patients and will be instituting training in different majors to be proficient in the usage of latest equipment.

However, Awadhi said that the department still suffers from a shortage in its technical staff and suggested the establishment of a faculty for nutrition and food sciences at Kuwait University to provide the department with its needs of technical nutrition cadres.



Patricia Mills: an eye for brilliance

Patricia captures light and shadow

Arabian love affair

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

SOME say it with words. British artist Patricia Mills expresses herself with light. The contrast of light and shade and the transparency of brilliant sunlight is the hallmark of her paintings displayed at "Watercolours of Arabia" exhibition at Tareq Rajab Museum.

The desert glows in her work, and the stark beauty of its colours — browns, bronzes, silver and the shades and shadows shimmer in Patricia's watercolours.

But it is the remarkable perception of light and shade that is the most striking aspect of this artist's work, like the sunlight playing hide and seek within a fort or mosque walls, be it in Oman, Kuwait, Dubai or Baghdad. And the contrast between dark light and strong shades becomes a visual stimulant. Where colour is needed, the desert palm gives her ample scope to compare the beauty of the rich browns with the emerald green sheen.

Affair

Admits the artist: "It's the light that caught my eye; and in the brilliant sunlight even the shape of buildings seemed different than that of Europe." She came to Kuwait five years ago, and has ever since carried on her love affair with the light and its shadows. To fulfil her passion, she found a warmth, which she imparts in her work, in the colours of Arabia. And life flows, and beauty blossoms even in the most mundane of objects — like the details of a diwan's doorway, exquisitely captured in a pen and ink drawing or the rustic ethnicity of a doorway in Oman or Basra. But it is with the Saudi House series that colour runs riot — rich reds and blazing orange sharply contrast with white and golden hues. The effect is stunning.

Since the 1970s, Patricia has been dabbling in oil and acrylics and making sculptures. She took to watercolours after coming to Kuwait. "Light is transparent and to achieve greater clarity, I chose the more delicate medium of watercolours to capture light," she said.

She travels extensively throughout the Arab world to bask in the atmosphere that has now become an inseparable part of her life.

Every journey gives a new set of ideas to work on and the "chaos-cure effects" created by light pose an endless challenge for the artist.

Peace

"Arabia is so peaceful, there's so little pressure here and not many distractions. This is just the right atmosphere for my work," she says. Kuwait is one country in which she has spent the maximum number of years of her life. She has exhibited twice in her five years here.

She loves the relaxed pace of life and feels she is closer to nature and at peace with herself. And reflections of her inner sanctity and peace are abundant in her neat, eye-catching watercolours.

"Beauty, and capturing it, is the highest motive. I leave arguing to politicians," she says. Her work is a statement of beauty in the mundane. And visually stimulating and mentally soothing.

It's no wonder that her paintings are collector's items in private and municipal collections in UK, Kuwait, Canada, US, Japan, Ireland, Australia, Dubai, Saudi Arabia and Oman.

Patricia Mills teaches watercolours at the Tareq Rajab Museum and holds classes twice a week. She has been teaching art for the last 14 years.

"Watercolours of Arabia" is open at the Tareq Rajab Museum's studio (see What's On) until March 20.

Rise in new permits

THE Immigration Department in the four governorates issued last month over 4,600 work permits, over two thirds for domestic. A press release issued by the Interior Ministry said that 3,187 work permits were for maids and 787 for private sector employees, 490 work permits were issued for family dependents and 148 for government employees. The total number of work permits issued in February is slightly over half the number of those issued in January this year.

There was a slight drop in the number of visit visas issued last month. Over 16,500 visit visas were issued in February as against slightly over 17,000 visas during January. On an individual basis, 8,968 visas were family visits, 7,122 for business and the rest for government visits and for medical treatment.

The departments also issued 1,128 permits for expatriates allowing them to stay outside Kuwait for over 6 months.

Support intifada conference, urge Arabs

TUNIS, March 7, (Kuna): The first Pan-Arab nongovernmental conference has called on the Arab people and governments to take immediate action to stop Jewish migration to occupied Palestine and support the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in face of displacement and oppression.

The conference, at conclusion of its deliberations here last night with participation of Arab politicians, intellectuals and men of letters, called on the Arabs to support the Palestinian intifadah and secure its continuity.

The gathering, which started last Saturday and discussed a number of current Arab and international issues, condemned the US scheme which stands behind the Soviet Jews influx to occupied Palestine and the Soviet approval of such a scheme.

The conferees appealed for freeing prisoners of conscience in the Arab countries or bringing them before fair trials, respecting right of political asylum and allowing free functions of human rights organisations.

They placed importance on supporting Arabic culture, resisting foreign cultural invasion, backing all Arab unity endeavours as well as protecting the rights of Arab expatriates in foreign countries particularly against discrimination.

The conferees called for peaceful settlement of Arab differences and hailed the growing Arab awareness of democracy, human rights respect and rapprochement among the Arab countries.

They stressed that "the Lebanese problem is an Arab responsibility," pointing out that resolutions of the Casablanca Summit and the Taif Agreement represent the appropriate solution for resolving the Lebanese crisis.

The conferees decided to meet annually and form a general secretariat comprising a fixed number of Arab personalities who will prepare for future meetings.

GCC traffic festival

GTA plans to use computers

THE undersecretary of Interior Ministry Major-General Yousef Al Khorafi patronised a festival held to honour traffic officers in the GCC states on behalf of Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Sabah Al Salem. The festival was one of the activities of the unified Gulf Traffic Week held in Kuwait under the slogan of "Traffic Safety for Children." The festival started with reciting of verses of the Holy Quran.

The director-general of the General Traffic Administration (GTA) Brigadier Abdul Hameed Hajji Abdul Raheem said in his speech that GTA is an active member in all meetings of traffic directors of GCC states that are held annually. He added that one of the joint achievements of the traffic departments in the GCC states is the project to modernise the driving licences at the GCC level according to the latest technology.

He added that GTA had achieved advancement in local traffic projects such as the future project of the central control of traffic signals which will be shortly tendered, the project to modernise telecommunications and a project to amend some articles of the traffic law. The GTA also extended comprehensive training to traffic policemen — both at the local and international level. The GTA has asked a company to design and build stations for car technical inspection under its supervision and according to certain conditions and rules. We also plan to use computers in a number of services offered by the GTA like issuing a new car book, making appointments of driving tests and to modernise the book of traffic violations. Brigadier Hajji said.

Commenting on road accidents in Kuwait last year, he said that they totalled 20,384 in all governorates of Kuwait, 301 people were killed, 969 seriously injured and 1997 had slight injuries in these accidents. He referred the main reason of these accidents to the drivers themselves who do not abide by the traffic rules. He added that GTA recorded 252,317 traffic violations in 1989 — an increase of 9 per cent compared to 1988. GTA implemented 56,637 sentences issued by the traffic court, he said.

The head of Saudi traffic delegation Captain Sulaiman Al Ajan delivered a speech on behalf of traffic delegations of the GCC states in which he praised Kuwait for hosting and organising GCC Traffic Week. Children in schools of Hawalli educational area performed a number of folklore dances on the occasion. Major-General Al Khorafi then distributed prizes and appreciation certificates to active traffic officers in the GCC states.

Meanwhile, a meeting of owners of pilgrimage caravans for the coming pilgrimage season was held which was headed by Col Mohammed Al Subai, director of exits departments at the Ministry of Interior. The meeting focused on discussing the problems encountered by officials of the Interior Ministry and other related authorities as a result of violations committed by some caravans. The official called on caravan owners to candidly explain to officials any problems that they experience within Kuwait or during the pilgrimage season. He assured owners that every assistance will be provided to streamline procedures and alleviate their problems.

Subai said that the Interior Ministry's computer centre will computerise names of all pilgrims and each pilgrim will be issued with a special form and all pilgrims will be offered all facilities in co-ordination with the Health Ministry, Awqaf and the General Customs Department. Additionally, security police at the border centres will be doubled to ease pressure on pilgrims during the season. The official said that departure and arrivals of pilgrims will be completed within one hour.

However, the official called on caravan owners to complete their formalities at the existing departments two weeks prior to departure to Saudi Arabia, by presenting lists of names of pilgrims after being approved by the Ministry of Awqaf. Caravans will not be permitted to leave Kuwait, except on the appointed date provided by the pilgrimage affairs committee, Subai said.



Turkish envoy

The director-general of Civil Aviation Authority, Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Sabah, received in his office Tuesday the Turkish Ambassador to Kuwait Guner Oztek. Discussions focused on developing air transport between the two countries and bilateral relations.

Stop Jewish threat: Palestinians

Serious Arab stand called for

DR BASEM JARADEH, of the General Union of Palestinian Pharmacists and Doctors, has said that the Soviet Jews' emigration to occupied Palestine posed a grave danger that threatened the Arab region as a whole, stressing the need to step up support for the popular uprising in Palestine.

Dr Abdul Wahab Al Maseeri of the Faculty of Arts pointed out that in order to stop the influx of Soviet Jews into Palestine, great pressure must be applied on the Soviet Union, adding that this phenomenon indicated massive and grave social changes which the Soviet Union is apparently unable to bring under control.

Dr Shafeeq Al Ghahra of the Political Sciences Department at Kuwait University called for the adoption of a serious all-out Arab stand vis-a-vis the influx of Soviet Jews into Palestine, through official and popular organisation. He stressed the importance of establishing a unified front emanating from an Arab conference able to communicate firmly with the world community.

At a recent symposium held by the Kuwait Medical Society on Sunday under the title The Emigration of Soviet Jews into Palestine, Dr Jaradeh highlighted the history of Arab-Soviet relations and the Soviet Jews emigration which was being confronted with the ongoing popular uprising

due to the gravity of this problem.

He stressed a number of differences existing between the Soviet Union and the Palestinian revolution, despite the apparent stable relations between the two sides, particularly the Soviet recognition of the Zionist regime and the Israeli entity since the first moment of its establishment.

Conspiracy

Dr Abdul Wahab Al Maseeri said that it is in the best interests of the Zionist entity to inflate the actual number of Soviet Jews so that all needed or requested financial aid would be easily obtainable from the US and other Western governments supporting the expansionist policy of Israel.

He stressed the need for a speedy all-out Arab move to exercise pressure on the Soviet Union to curb the flow of Jews into Palestine, seeking support from the different Islamic republics of the Soviet Union.

Dr Ghahra said that the Arab-Israeli conflict was climaxing into a state of high-explosivity, if no careful and speedy measures were adopted using all available Arab potentials.

He reiterated the justice of the cause of Palestine and that this criminal act of conspiracy against the people of Palestine must not be left neglected.



HH the Amir presenting a certificate to Paaet graduate.

Amir patronises Paaet graduation ceremony

KUWAIT, March 7, (Kuna): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed today patronised the graduation ceremony of the 1988-89 graduates of the Public Authority for Training and Applied Education.

His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed, sheikhs and ministers as well as heads of diplomatic missions were all present during the ceremony.

Minister of Higher Education Dr Ali Al Shamlan, addressing the guests, stressed the important role of educational institutions in the civilisation of every society.

A study is currently underway to establish a national committee

for science and technology to create a national technological and scientific base that will contribute in achieving development goals, Shamlan disclosed.

Dependency on sheer theoretical and scientific studies is not enough for meeting the needs of a developed society, Shamlan said, noting that development requires prepared qualified technicians.

For his part, Director General of the Authority Dr Abdelrahman Al Mhailan praised the patronage of His Highness the Amir at the graduation ceremony, noting such a gesture is very appreciated.

He added that the authority had achieved several accomplishments during the past period topped by the upgrading of the

major basis of training and educational process including trainers, students as well as lecturers, programmes and curriculum.

Enrollment policies of the authority takes into consideration the country's needs of different cadres, Mhailan noted.

A graduate, on behalf of his colleagues, highlighted the patronage of HH the Amir, noting such a move mirrors the keenness and respect of HH to education.

He said employing education in serving society and national development is the best fruit of progress.

Later HH and the minister of higher education distributed certificates and presents to the graduates.

Combat illiteracy and unemployment: Nasser

CAIRO, March 7, (Kuna): Kuwait's Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed Al Jaber today called for a pan-Arab programme to fight illiteracy and unemployment in the Arab world and to support joint Arab projects.

In a speech at the meeting of the 8th session of the Arab Labour conference, currently under way here, Sheikh Nasser said the Arab world is facing challenges that necessitate bolstering development projects in the Arab world regardless of regional or political differences.

He recalled that the previous decade was a difficult one for both the Arab oil exporting countries and those who were suffering financial deficits.

He emphasised that this necessitates a look into and implement the initiative of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait which he launched during his UN General Assembly

speech September 1988 on solving the debt problems of the Third World countries.

Speaking about the planned single European market which will be effective by 1992, Sheikh Nasser said this unity would be of economic results on the Arab world, adding that he expected open markets of East European countries would also affect the economic situation in the Arab world.

He emphasised that confronting these challenges should not be carried out unilaterally but at the pan-Arab level.

Speaking about the most important issues that should be tackled during the next decade, Sheikh Nasser said a pan-Arab programme to eradicate illiteracy should be worked out, adding that about 40 per cent of the Arab people, whose ages range between 15 to 40 years, are suffering from this problem.

Maintain rangeland diversity: conference

By Lina Al Khalafawi
Arab Times staff

THE Second International Conference on Range Management in the Gulf, held on March 3-6 in Kuwait, submitted reports and confirmed that rangelands are a major renewable resource in every country of the Gulf.

The main recommendation aimed in foster sustainability, maintain productivity and retain biotic diversity of rangeland in the Gulf region.

Other recommendations of the conference are to expand knowledge on the development of a flora and fauna based on present and future research as well as historical documentation and continue range ecosystem research including indigenous knowledge by land owners and livestock grazers.

Other recommendations included the development of a land tenure system that encourages private investment in the management of range resources, and the enforcement, environmental protection and conservation law that address grazing.

Manpower training and development recommendations included the establishment of formal education programmes for technical diploma, B.Sc. and Ph.D. in range management in GCC countries, and providing incentives to attract and retain skilled national manpower in range management.

On regional and international co-operation, the conference recommended initiating joint programmes in range research, monitoring, management and policy development between national, regional and international institutes.

Indian embassy

A press release from the Embassy of India in Kuwait has said that it will remain closed on Saturday March 10, 1990 on the occasion of Holi festival.

REQUIRED

A/C Mechanic with minimum 5 years' experience in maintenance of package and chilled water system.

Candidates should have transferable residence, and a valid Kuwaiti driving licence is preferable.

Interested persons pls contact tel. 4835736, 4835879.

Pakistan School & College

(Affiliated with F.B.I.S.E.)

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1 Admission is open for KG to class X

(Urdu & English medium). Test Schedule is as follows:

13th March 90 KG to IV class

14th March 90 Class V to X

Prescribed forms are available from the Office during working hours.

2 Qualified nurse and librarian are wanted.

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EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

DO all the good you can and make no fuss about it — Charles Dickens, English novelist (1812-1870).

President to be chosen
Taiwan behind
in democracy

TAIPEI, Taiwan. (AP): Ageing and infirm politicians who last faced election four decades ago are about to choose the country's new president, underscoring how far Taiwan lags behind the advance of democracy elsewhere.

On Sunday, the ageing politicians rejected the candidacy of President Lee Teng-hui for a six-year term and endorsed a rival contender who they believe is dedicated to the goal of recapturing mainland China.

The political crisis leading to the presidential vote has intensified frustrations felt by many Taiwanese who wonder why political change is taking so long here compared with Eastern Europe, where decades of one-party rule is quickly giving way to free elections.

"When martial law was lifted in 1987, people thought the country would be transformed to democracy soon," said sociologist Chu Hai-Yuan of National Taiwan University. "Now they are disappointed and frustrated as they see the deplorable political reality."

Taiwan's political system is designed to perpetuate the rule of the Chinese Nationalist Party, or Kuomintang, which fled to this island from mainland China after losing a civil war to communist forces in 1949.

Retreat

Nationalist World War II leader Chiang Kai-shek, who led the retreat to Taiwan, and then his son, Chiang Ching-kuo, ruled the island with an iron grip, brooking no challenge.

Just before his death in January 1988, the younger Chiang ended 38 years of martial law and lifted restrictions on opposition parties, starting a programme of democratisation. The first multiparty general election was held last December for some legislative seats and local races.

But the electoral college and legislature remain dominated by Nationalist politicians who last faced elections on the Chinese mainland before the civil war more than 40 years ago.

Most are in their 70s or older, and many suffer from illness or senility. All but a few of the elderly politicians have been kept in office to support the government claim that it's still the rightful ruler of all of China.

But now they refuse to accept a government offer of handsome pensions to retire. They are widely unpopular and commonly called "old thieves."

"The elderly assemblymen are good for nothing," said cab driver Tao Yun-Teng. "As a driver, I have made more contributions to the society than they."

The 752-seat electoral college, formally called the National Assembly, will choose the next president on March 21.

The election is crucial, but Taiwan's 20 million people will have no real voice in the process.

The vast majority of the electors are ageing mainlanders who continue to dream of a victorious Nationalist return to the mainland.

Ageing

On Sunday, a group of ageing politicians threw their support behind Lin Yang-Kang, the popular head of Taiwan's judiciary. They named Chiang Wego, 73, the sole surviving son of Nationalist leader Chiang Kai-shek, as his running mate.

Many of the old guard are uneasy about Lee, who was president Chiang's vice-president and ascended to the presidency when Chiang died in 1982.

Leading up to the election, Lee has been forced to spend much of his time building up support within the party, particularly among the ageing members of the electoral college.

Observers believe this has prevented him from tackling mounting social problems, such as pollution and crime, that have triggered widespread dissatisfaction.

"The old guard also has tried to put up candidates for parliamentary elections who have not received full party backing and do not have wide popular support."

That alleged scheme by the old guard to boost their own power prompted 24 prestigious scholars to issue a statement warning of "irreparable political confrontation and chaos" should the National Assembly elect a president and vice-president "counter to what the public has expected."

The scholars further urged "our elderly politicians to step down to allow a smooth power restructuring."

The refusal of the old guard Nationalists to bow out already has led to small but violent protests.

Opposition

Members of the opposition Democratic Progressive Party terrorise the elderly parliamentarians, frequently harassing or even punching them during meetings of the legislature and National Assembly.

A demonstration staged by the opposition in February to demand removal of the elderly lawmakers left 100 people injured.

The United Daily News, one of Taiwan's leading newspapers, acknowledged the political crisis when it said in a recent editorial that "people are asking how much longer will this transition period last, how much longer should we stand such disorder and how much will we have to pay for it."

Political observers believe pressure for more democratic reform will mount after the presidential election, but it is not clear what action the government is willing to take.

Lee has promised to push for further democratisation but has stressed the process must be step by step.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1722 — Afghanistan's Mir Mahmud starts war against Persia.

1765 — Britain's House of Lords passes Stamp Act to tax American colonies.

1865 — Canal is begun in the Netherlands to connect Amsterdam with North Sea.

1898 — United States refuses to support Britain in its conflict with Russia over loan to China.

1904 — Germany revises 1872 anti-Jesuit law to permit return of some members of the Roman Catholic Order.

1917 — Riots and strikes break out in St. Petersburg, marking start of Russian Revolution.

1949 — France recognises non-communist Vietnam nationalists under Bao Dai as independent state within French union.

1950 — Marshal Voroshilov announces Soviet possession of atomic bomb.

1954 — United States and Japan sign mutual defence agreement.

1957 — Ghana is admitted to United Nations.

1961 — British Commonwealth prime ministers conference opens in London, and South Africa announces it will leave Commonwealth May 31.

1965 — United States lands 3,500 Marines in South Vietnam.

1969 — Soviet Union puts its far East Army on alert as warning to China after frontier clash on Ussuri river.

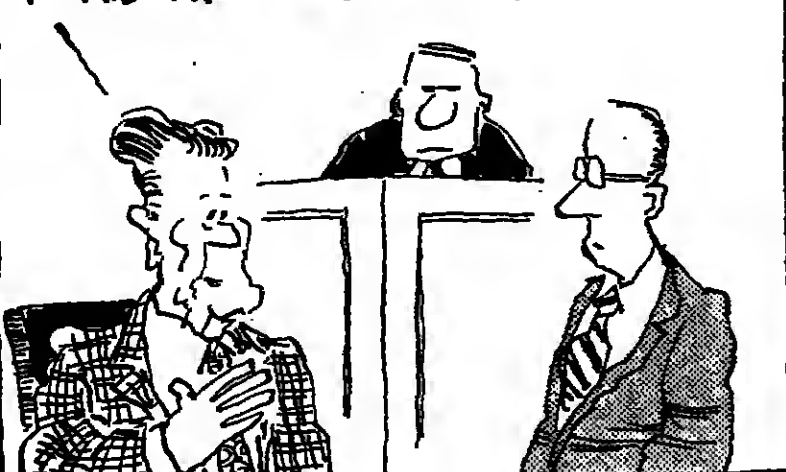
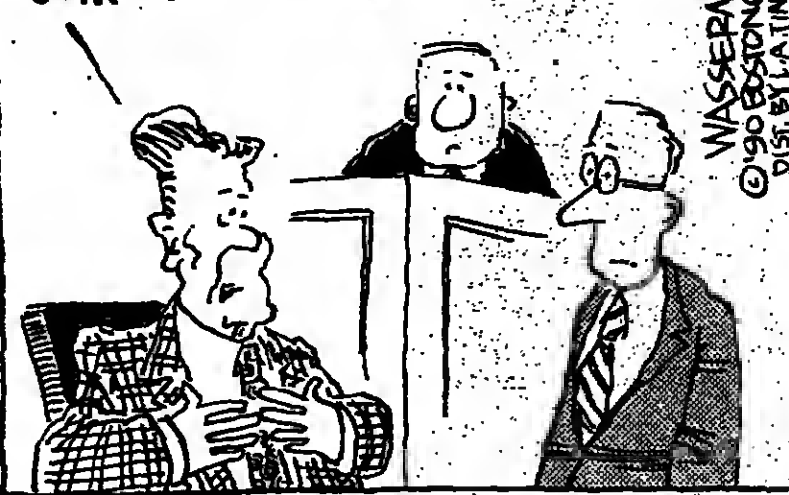
1970 — Cyprus president Makarios escapes assassination when terrorist snipers shoot down his helicopter.

1986 — Guerrilla violence in Colombia takes seven lives on day prior to national elections.

1987 — Sri Lankan troops launch large new offensive, killing 11 Tamil militants in northern Jaffna peninsula.

1988 — UN Security Council speakers condemn South Africa's ban of anti-apartheid organisations.

1989 — Troops converge on Tibetan capital of Lhasa to enforce martial law following three days of anti-Chinese rioting.

WELL... WE WANTED
TO AID THE CONTRAS......AND WE WANTED
THE HOSTAGES FREEDBUT DID YOU TELL ADM. POINDEXTER TO
DIVERT IRAN MONEY TO THE CONTRAS?OH, MY GOSH!
SOMEONE DID THAT?!

Poindexter: did whose duty

Covering up Iran-Contra operations

WASHINGTON, (Reuters): John Poindexter caused a sensation in the 1987 congressional hearings into the Iran-Contra scandal when he declared in a dry monotone, "on this whole issue, you know, the huck stops here with me."

You could almost hear a sign of relief ripple out of the White House.

The former US National Security Adviser had just taken responsibility for the diversion of profits from the sale of US arms to Iran to Nicaragua's rebels, confirming President Ronald Reagan's claim he knew nothing about the potentially criminal operation.

Defendant

Poindexter is the last major defendant in the Iran-Contra scandal, which rocked the Reagan presidency, but he is also the highest-ranking defendant and the only one who had regular access to Reagan and his vice-president, George Bush.

Poindexter insists he is innocent on the five criminal counts of making false statements to Congress and destroying classified documents. Jury selection at US district court in Washington began on Monday.

The retired admiral's defence turns on the assertion that he was authorised by Reagan to cover up secret White House operations which led to the arms sale and diversion of profits.

Poindexter was a serving admiral when he made his 1987 declaration before a rapt audience of congressional leaders and millions of television viewers.

Image

The moment greatly enhanced his image as a cool Washington operator. A gruff man with an air of command and a passion for secrecy, the balding, pipe-smoking admiral was a bland, Washington hussar.

He was overshadowed by his aide, flamboyant Marine Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North, until his turn came to testify at congressional hearings into the scandal.

Poindexter, 53 and retired at the rank of rear admiral, was security adviser from December 1985 to November 1986 — the period when US arms were being sold secretly to Iran and proceeds diverted to the Contras at North's direction.

A vice admiral at the time of his ill-fated White House service, he was ultimately denied permanent appointment to that rank and reverted one grade before retiring.

All this was a swift reversal for an officer whose career has soared, first in the military and then in National Security Council duty.

Born in Washington, Indiana, on August 12, 1936, Poindexter graduated first in his class from the US Naval Academy in 1958. Married and the father

of five sons, he did most of his navy sea duty aboard destroyers.

Jurors

The defence is hoping jurors will agree that Reagan's videotaped testimony supports Poindexter's contention he had no reason to believe his Iran-Contra activities were illegal.

Reagan's testimony appears to contain something for all sides: statements supporting both his former aide but also minimising the refrain that "I emphasised (to my staff) that we don't break the law."

Two questions were paramount — what did Reagan know and when did he know it? Poindexter addressed them on July 15, 1987, during a discussion of the Contra funds diversion.

Testimony had established that the Contra operation, which might have violated congressional bans against official aid to the rebels from 1984-86, was run by North under Poindexter.

As for what Reagan knew, the admiral explained: "Although I was convinced that we could properly do it (divert funds), and that the president would approve if asked, I made a very deliberate decision not to ask the president so that I could insulate him from the decision and provide some future deniability for him if it ever leaked out."

Then followed his buck-stops-here declaration.

Letters to the editor

Konkani stage

SIR: In reply to the letter in this column dated 4-3-90 by one Jozito Colaco, I would like to state that Colaco is completely ignorant of Konkani stage. If the director has crossed double centuries shows of play "Succorina" it is only because of the sympathy for the late lady Succorina who was brutally murdered. Menino de Bander is devoid of any high ideology, his dramas are of low calibre. These type of directors and writers are keeping Konkani stage down. Just because of century making show I do not consider him as great, today because of the increase in population even an ordinary play can create a century.

As for M. Boyer, I once again say that he has lowered the image of Konkani dramas by using vulgar words on the stage. Among all the actors he is very proud, he acts like a Hitler and it is he who destroys the future of many up-coming actors. Does Colaco know the culprit of the boycott of actress Succorina for so many years? Poor Succorina suffered a lot under the Hitlerism of M. Boyer. These actors come to Kuwait solely for making money by distorting poor performance. M. Boyer has fooled the audience in Goa enough. He will know his present standing when he comes to Kuwait in November. And for Fely, I still admire her but Colaco looks at her with a very sexy mind.

In my last letter I did not criticise anyone but only spoke the truth which is not criticism. What is fact is fact and nobody can deny it.

M. Augusto Fernandes,
Safat.

Harping on an old tune

SIR: I'd like to inform Dr Haider Mehdi in response to his "research" (AT Feb 25) that psychologically discussing our mentality from the democratic point of view should be with the concerned authorities in Pakistan, not in a foreign country. And by saying that I would like to add that his whole analysis was nothing but an introduction to what later appeared to be straight accusations to the opposition in Pakistan in favour of the ruling elites. It is obviously clear that he is a PPP man, and that he is harping on an old tune that has vanished from Pakistan itself. In other words, his accusations were nothing compared to the emerging evidences against Bhutto women more than their being just "women". Let's take a brief look at them:

● PPP is assisting the disintegration process by ordering that the education in each of the four provinces would be in the regional languages putting aside the national language Urdu on the basis that Urdu is only spoken in Karachi, Islamabad and amongst the educated community in Lahore.

● Since Benazir took power in Dec 1988 no signs of progress in any field have been noticed, on the contrary there had been a heavy decline in the value of Pak rupees and a sharp rise in the prices of basic commodities.

● The security situation in Punjab, and Baluchistan — which are ruled by opposition — is excessively steady compared to the one in PPP's home province, Sind, which indicates the total failure of PPP to clean up the troublemakers.

● PPP has openly claimed that it's the only party in Pakistan that can preserve national solidarity and has always called its newly-emerged for MQM an ethnic group. It would be interesting to note that PPP has recently ordered the official media to state the ethnic group of riot victims.

Ahmad A. Qureshi,
Safat.

Good proposal

SIR: This is in response to Iqbal Latif's letter published in the Arab Times on March 5, 1990.

The letter, no doubt is unique in the sense that no other Pakistani organisation in Kuwait has ever expressed the same ideology as yours. I am impressed by your sincere feelings towards Pakistan which focus on the country instead of any particular individual or an organisation. I believe the only way to have our beloved country achieve a name in the world is by asking ourselves the same question which an American president once asked his fellow countrymen i.e., "Don't ask what your country has done for you, but what you can do for your country." The topic for the essay competition is a very good choice and suits the occasion.

I am not a professional nor a businessman, but I admire and support your ideas. I would very much like to offer my services as a helping hand if required, and do my part in building a greater Pakistan for tomorrow.

Musir Ahmed,
Kuwait.

Irresponsible acts

SIR: I would like to bring to the attention of the International School of Pakistan about the irresponsible activities going on in the school. The teachers of the school are lazy and downhearted with the course. They were not able to complete the course even two weeks before the final exam. So no revision was done in that case.

In order to submit the report to the principal the teachers rushed through the course in last days which became a burden on the children and also on the parents as well. To save money the administration has kept low-paid inexperienced teachers. Above all after paying such high fees the parents fear that their children would not be able to appear for the Federal Board Matriculation exam as a regular student or not due to the confrontations between the school and the embassy.

I think the school should look over these problems and try to solve them in order to keep the name of school.

Worried.

(Name and address supplied)

Smoking dangers

SIR: Nowadays it is very commonly seen that people are smoking wherever they go. There is no age limit of these people. Children of 14 and above smoke very frequently.

It is often seen that students, while going to school, have books in one hand and cigarette in the other. Students purchase more of cigarette packets than pens or pencils.

In buses, "No Smoking" sign is often seen. But it is also very often seen that the bus conductor is smoking himself. Doctors are often seen lecturing patients about lung problems due to smoking, with cigarette or a lit pipe in his own mouth.

In Murghab, people are found chewing tobacco and spitting their saliva, packed with tobacco juice, on the poles of KRTC bus stand.

Parents smoke in front of their children and this urges the children to smoke too. They feel mature when they hold a cigarette in between their lips. This smoking can be stopped only if the government bans the import of tobacco, cigarettes and cigars.

A person does not get addicted to smoking by smoking a few cigarettes. Even if he does get addicted, it is not difficult to come off it. I don't know why people would pay to get slowly poisoned.

Saeed Javed Butt,
Safat.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Defiant militants
want secession

SRINAGAR, (Reuters): Kashmir's Muslims, waging street battles with security forces, show no sign of willingness to settle for anything less than a clean break from India.

Jagmohan, Delhi's governor in the country's only Muslim-majority state, says he has opened a way for India to keep the Kashmir Valley in the fold by dissolving the state assembly last month to pave the way for fresh elections.

Jagmohan is living in a "fool's paradise," said Abdul Ghani Lone, leader of the regional People's Conference Party.

Powerful

So powerful is the hold of militant groups, who want independence or secession to neighbouring Pakistan, that traditional politicians like Lone have been shorn of support in Jammu and Kashmir state.

Lone said nobody had demanded fresh elections and it was a non-issue. "If he (Jagmohan) has not understood the problem, then God help us," he added.

There is no sign that Delhi is prepared to entertain the idea of relinquishing Kashmir. But many Kashmiris now believe their "paradise on earth" of mountains and lakes may one day be free of Indian control.

About 185 people have been killed in the six-week-old revolt, most of them in clashes with security forces.

Yet street demonstrations are attracting ever larger crowds chanting "Azadi, Azadi" ("freedom, freedom").

Tourism, Kashmir's money spinner, is in ruins due to the protests. But despite economic hardship, few talk about a need to woo the tourists back.

Watches

Many Kashmiris throughout the valley have put their watches back half-an-hour to Pakistan time, on the instructions of militants who look across the border for support.

India has fought two wars with Pakistan over Kashmir.

When India became independent of Britain and Pakistan was created in 1947, Kashmir's Hindu prince opted to join India.

But by 1949 Pakistan controlled a third of the territory. A United Nations resolution that year called for a plebiscite.

It has never been held, and the call for self-determination is now stronger than ever.

Demonstrators asking for freedom to decide their future have delivered hundreds of petitions to the Srinagar office of a United Nations group which monitors the ceasefire line.

In one such demonstration last Friday hundreds of thousands of people poured into the streets. Nearly 40 died in ensuing clashes with the army.

The government again imposed a curfew, paralysing normal life in Srinagar which was slowly recovering from similar curfews enforced in January.

Talks

Jagmohan said that after his decision to dissolve the assembly, the 30-odd militant groups had begun discussions amongst themselves and were thinking of holding talks with the government.

"I am not a negotiator and I do not believe in negotiations," he said.

"Day in and day out people are consolidating their position. They are just for independence," Lone said.

He said he feared the killings would continue. The entire population of young people in the valley had allied themselves with militant groups and the Indian government appeared determined to crush the movement, he said.

"The point of no return has been reached. The position of militants and the government are at two extreme ends."

Ghulam Mohamed Shah, a former chief minister of the state, said the government had to open talks with militants because politicians like himself had been rendered useless.

"We are in the drawing room and they are in the field with guns. It is better to talk to the mujahedeen and end the matter," he said.

Drug chiefs
menace Pakistan

JEHANGIR DARA, Pakistan, (UPI): Farmers have been growing opium in this village near the Pakistan-Afghan border almost since the times of 17th century Mogul Emperor Jehangir, after whom it is named.

"We would die if we didn't grow poppies," said elderly farmer Syed Hassan in his newly planted field in a valley of Pakistan's rugged Northwest Frontier Province. "We can't afford to grow anything else."

But for the past decade the crop has become the raw material for an illegal industry reportedly producing revenues of \$8 billion a year — almost double Pakistan's annual budget.

More than 30 per cent of the heroin that reaches the United States comes from opium grown along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border and the region rivals Burma as the world's major producer.

Availability

The ready availability of heroin in Pakistan also has sparked a domestic addiction problem that officials say has affected some 2 million people — about 2 per cent of the population.

Weeks after taking office in December 1988, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto announced a crusade against the drug menace. But more than one year later, experts say the government has failed to worry the multi-millionaire chiefs of more than 90 narcotics smuggling syndicates throughout the country.

"The government raised a big hue and cry about drugs when it took over," charged one senior official in the Northwest Frontier Province, "but they've done nothing. Everything has gone on as usual."

Experts blame the growth of the drugs problem on corruption, a failure to convict the top people, difficulties in policing the semi-autonomous tribal areas and the fact that efforts to eradicate cultivation in Pakistan have only pushed growers into war-torn Afghanistan, which already produces four times the poppy crop of its neighbour.

They say Pakistan soon could be forced to mount a massive Colombia-style crackdown if it really wants to curb its drug cartel, which they say is fast becoming entrenched as a virtual parallel government.

"The parallels with Colombia are all there," said one narcotics expert. "The mistakes Pakistan has made are the same as Colombia's. In 1981, it would have been much easier to take action as there were only a few labs."

"But they postponed the hard decision. And the longer they leave it, the harder it will be. What the government is doing now is snipping at the back of the problem and hoping it will go away."

JALALI

Tanai hand in three of five previous coup attempts

NEW DELHI, March 7, (AP): As Afghanistan's Defence Minister, Maj. Gen. Shahnawaz Tanai was expected to lead the government's fight against Muslim rebels. Instead he tried to overthrow President Najib.

Yesterday coup attempt illustrated once again the simultaneous challenges Najib faces in trying to pacify enemies inside his own party and end the war against the US-backed rebels.

Radio Kabul said yesterday that Tanai plotted with fundamentalist rebel leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar to try to topple Najib's Soviet-backed government.

It said the coup bid failed and Tanai fled, although Western diplomats, Soviet media and rebel sources reported widespread fighting in the Afghan capital.

A Tanai-Hekmatyar alliance would be

one of convenience and opportunism, not ideology. Tanai has long advocated a harsher stance against the rebels than Najib himself.

In the last two years, Najib promoted Tanai in the government and in his People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan despite Tanai's reputation of active opposition to the president.

According to Afghan sources who are both pro- and anti-Najib and the party, Tanai has been involved in at least three of five known coup attempts since Najib became president in December 1986.

All the sources spoke on condition of not being identified, which is common among Afghans who fear the long arm of Khat, the secret police once headed by Najib.

By linking Tanai to Hekmatyar, the government radio station may be attempt-

ing to fully disgrace the former defence minister.

In recent months, Najib has increasingly criticised Hekmatyar while saying other rebel leaders are more rational and welcome to join the government. Hekmatyar also has become estranged from other leaders of the fractious rebel coalition, rejecting their political leadership and executing some of their followers.

Tanai is from the party faction called Khalq, or "masses," while Najib is from its Parcham, or "flag," faction.

Although both factions are hard-line with strong leaders, Parcham is less militaristic than Khalq, especially in seeking a political solution to the 12-year-old war against rebel known as mujahideen, or Islamic holy warriors.

Najib loyalists say the president recently has tried to change the party — and

even its name — in an effort to gain acceptance from the rebels, the Afghan people and foreign opponents. Under Najib it has sought to portray itself as a defender of Islam and champion of a free-market economy.

The rebels have rejected Najib's overtures because they consider the party to be communist and atheist.

Tanai, who is thought to be in his mid 40s, has a reputation for rejecting any concessions to the rebels.

He comes from the Tanai district near Khost in southern Afghanistan.

Tanai is a member of the ruling party's politburo, which currently has 14 members, according to senior party members. He was elevated to full membership from alternate membership in either late 1988 or in 1989, a promotion that can only

take place with Najib's concurrence.

Tanai became defence minister sometime in 1988. As often happens in Afghanistan, his appointment apparently was not formally announced. But by late 1988 he was being referred to in Kabul as the defence minister and when Najib reshuffled his cabinet in February 1989 after the Soviet withdrawal, Tanai remained defence minister.

An Afghan source in New Delhi said travellers who arrived in the Indian capital Monday from Kabul reported Tanai recently had entrenched himself in Darulaman, the old palace on the capital's southwestern outskirts that now serves as the Defence Ministry.

According to the source, the travellers said there was widespread rumours in Kabul that Tanai was planning another coup attempt.

Casualty figures are not so high

UNITED NATIONS, March 7, (AP): Afghanistan's UN ambassador said yesterday an unknown number of people were killed and injured in a thwarted coup in Kabul, including "very, very limited" casualties among civilians.

"It's too early to have exact numbers concerning the people who were involved and who were killed in action," Ambassador Noor Ahmad Noor told a news conference. "But we do have information that the number who attempted the coup was very small. And out of that small group, a very limited number were killed, most people decided to surrender and a number were captured."

When asked if civilians were killed or injured in the fighting, Noor said the casualties were mainly among troops loyal to President Najibullah's government and renegade forces led by Defence Minister Shahnawaz Tanai.

Limited. "But when in a big city like Kabul something like this happens, of course, sometimes there are some civilian casualties as well. But they were very, very limited," Noor said.

The ambassador said Afghan security forces were searching for Tanai, who was believed to be in hiding in the Kabul vicinity after the coup attempt was crushed.

Noor said he had been in contact with officials in Afghanistan shortly before the 3 pm (2000 GMT) news conference at the United Nations and was told the capital city is "calm and normal."

"Gunfire is absent... and the government is in full control of the situation," the ambassador said.

Earlier, UN spokesman Francois Guiliani said UN staff members in the Afghan capital reported sporadic fighting continued during the evening.

Connection. Noor said that even though Tanai had been linked to previous attempts to topple the Soviet-backed government, he remained a trusted member of the Afghan leadership until the events yesterday.

"The question of trust is something that you cannot know," Noor said. "Yesterday he was a trusted person... He was the defence minister of the country. But he became a traitor. He made this attempt and now he is in hiding and another person has taken over."

Noor said Afghan officials believed Tanai had plotted with fundamentalist rebel leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar to try to overthrow Najib. But he declined to provide details, saying only that previous conspiracies against the Afghan government had indicated there were connections between the two men and their efforts to oust Najib.



Afghan soldiers on the top of an infantry fighting vehicle on patrol around Kabul, during the anniversary of Soviet military pullout. (Reuters wirephoto)

Coup attempt kind of desire for peace

Latest twist in decade-old power struggle

WASHINGTON, March 7, (Reuters): Coup attempt in Afghanistan may have been aimed at setting up the kind of coalition government Washington hopes could lead to an Afghan peace settlement, some US experts said.

But others saw it as the latest twist in a decade-old power struggle within the communist government.

In either case, the coup was intended to oust Afghan President Najibullah — also a US wish.

Just last week Secretary of State James Baker reiterated US support for a transfer of power from Najibullah to a broad-based government allowing participation by the Afghan rebels to whom the United States has been pouring millions of dollars of arms over the past decade via Pakistan.

Robert Neumann, a former US ambassador to Afghanistan, said the coup may have been an attempt by members of Najibullah's own government "to get rid of Najibullah so some kind of transitional government can be formed."

"They need a government that can deal with the resistance and with us and the Russians and the Pakistanis and that is all impossible as long as Najibullah is head of the government," Neumann said in an interview.

Selig Harrison, an author experienced in the region, said he thought it was possible that it was an effort at a peace settlement. But he said it was more

likely the latest eruption in a long-running fight between the Kabul government's Parcham (flag) and Khalq communist factions.

"I would say on the basis of what we have so far is that this is simply the latest in a 10-year-old power struggle that has been going on in the regime," Harrison said.

But he said Pakistan has been trying to promote a coup against Najibullah for a year and he believed the United States would also like to see Najibullah overthrown.

White House and State Department spokesmen had relatively little to say about the coup bid at briefings on Tuesday.

They said they were monitoring the situation but were ham-

pered in getting good information because the US embassy in Kabul was closed last year after Soviet troops pulled out. Washington at the time described the security situation there as deteriorating.

Republican Senator Gordon Humphries said he hoped the coup attempt would be the beginning of the end for Najibullah so that a peace settlement could be worked out between the government and mujahideen rebels.

"I hope today's events will be the straw that breaks the camel's back and that the Soviets will give up insisting that this unrepresentative regime stay in place and that it will be displaced so that interim government can be created which will lead to true self-determination for the

Afghan people," he said.

Asked if he believed the coup attempt was factional rivalry or a settlement effort, Humphries said, "from this distance, who the hell knows?"

But Neumann, who was US ambassador to Afghanistan from 1967 to 1973, said, "Those elements in the ruling party who want some kind of survival need to get rid of Najibullah."

"It is clear that Najibullah is an obstacle to any kind of an agreement."

Harrison said it looked like factional rivalry largely because of Kabul radio's announcement that the coup leader was the defence minister, Colonel General Shahnawaz Tanai, connected with the Khalq faction that has been fighting Najibullah's Parcham faction for years.

Najibullah's appointment of Lieutenant-General Mohammad Aslam Watanjar as defence minister to replace Tanai might show Najibullah has the strength to stay in power, Harrison said.

He said Watanjar was once in the Khalq faction so the appointment suggests Najibullah still has the support of at least part of that faction.

Professor Siqhatullah Mojaddidi, president of the Pakistan-based coalition Afghan rebel government, agreed in Pakistan that the coup attempt was only factional rivalry.

"It is a fight between two communist factions," Mojaddidi said, adding that the fighting between the two factions would benefit the mujahideen.



Oh God, the coup has failed! Inset: Gulbuddin Hekmatyar. (Reuters wirephoto)

Najib survivor of political war

Uneasy role of peacemaker

ISLAMABAD, March 7, (Reuters): Afghan President Najibullah, target of a coup attempt yesterday, has struggled for a year to bring peace to his country after the withdrawal of troops by his political backers, the Soviet Union.

Given little chance by the West of surviving more than a few weeks after the Soviet pullout in February 1989, Najibullah kept at bay mujahideen rebels battling to topple him.

After 11 years of war with the Western-backed mujahideen, the former secret police chief says the only way to peace is through talks between all forces in the poor landlocked country.

"Only political means can end the Afghan people's pains and sufferings," he told parliament last month.

Najibullah has put forward a series of peace proposals and accuses the United States and Pakistan of interfering by continuing to supply arms to the mujahideen.

But in the eyes of the rebels, the role of peacemaker sits uneasily on the shoulders of this powerfully-built man dubbed by some "the ox". They accuse Najibullah's People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) of being largely responsible for a war that has cost one million lives and filled Pakistan and Iran with five million Afghan refugees.

The PDPA, which seized power in 1978, originally pursued a tough socialist policy, but in recent years Najibullah has shifted the party from its early hardline stance.

Najibullah became head of the feared Khat secret police in December 1979 when Moscow intervened to bolster a tottering pro-Soviet administration.

Six years in the job left him with many enemies. He was said to have infiltrated and undermined opposition both inside and outside the PDPA.

When he became president in September 1987, he promptly purged 15 supporters of his discredited predecessor Babrak Karmal from the PDPA central committee and stiffened party discipline with an oath of loyalty to himself.

Two months later he masterminded a new constitution which greatly increased the powers of the president — hitherto a largely ceremonial post — to include control of the security forces and judiciary and the power to dissolve parliament.

But he dismissed charges by the United States and the London-based human rights organisation Amnesty International of widespread detention without trial and secret executions.

During negotiations for the Soviet pullout, diplomats were impressed by Najibullah's quick brain, saying he stood head and shoulders above his colleagues in the PDPA leadership.

But the rebels continued to dismiss him as a Soviet puppet. Although the lack of success in national reconciliation could not be laid at his door, Western diplomats said his record put him at a disadvantage as a peacemaker.

Born in 1947 — the exact date has never been made public — he was hampered by his relative youth in a country where respect for the wisdom of elders is a strong tradition.

Former schoolmates remember him as a devout Muslim — Najibullah means "praiseworthy man of God" — although he eagerly embraced the PDPA at Kabul University.

Najibullah enjoyed weightlifting, swimming, tennis and other sports during his university days. He is soft-spoken, with penetrating brown eyes, but exudes dynamism and authority.

"He has an easy charm, but can suddenly change his manner from a relaxed pleasantness to cold, steel-like suspicion," one acquaintance said.

Najibullah was born into the powerful Ahmadzai clan of the Pashtun people who make up about half Afghanistan's population, and was brought up in Peshawar, Pakistan and Kabul.

He attended high school in Kabul and qualified as a medical doctor in 1975 from his university, where he devoted most of his student days to politics and was twice jailed.

As president, he took his cue from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and abandoned many of Karmal's ideological tenets — offering ceasefires, amnesties, peace talks, resettlement grants and restoration of confiscated property for returning refugees and a share in power for some opposition leaders.

Once the Soviet pullout was agreed upon, Najibullah recognised that a military solution was impossible and made frequent efforts for a compromise, which met unrelenting hostility from the rebels.

The PDPA has been riven for years by factional fighting between Najibullah's Parcham group and the hardline Khalqis that dominate the Afghan officer corps.

Last December, a Soviet delegation was reported to have gone to Kabul to restore peace after a confrontation between Najibullah and Khalq Defence Minister Shahnawaz Tanai, the man said to have led yesterday's coup attempt.

Afghanistan ravaged by internal conflicts and political instability

ISLAMABAD, March 7, (Reuters): Following are the key facts about Afghanistan, where a coup attempt took place yesterday in Kabul, the capital.

Population: about 17 million, of whom more than 2.4 million are nomadic tribesmen. An estimated five million Afghans live as refugees in Pakistan and Iran. Islam is the main religion. Most are Sunni Muslims but there is a minority of at least one million Shiite Muslims.

Area: 245,665 square miles (636,270 sq km). Landlocked Afghanistan borders the Soviet Union to the north, Iran to the west and Pakistan to the south and east. Its north-east tip touches China.

Capital: Kabul (population: about two million).

Armed forces (source: International Institute of Strategic Studies, London): Army: 50,000 men (mostly conscripts, actual strength suspect), 510 tanks and 740 other armoured fighting vehicles. Air force: 5,000 men, about 140 combat aircraft, 65 armed helicopters.

Economy: gross national product and other key indicators not available. Main industries: natural gas production, carpets, natural gas and fresh and dried fruit are main exports. Main imports are petroleum products, textiles, sugar, tea. Total two-way trade March 1987-March 1988 was \$1.152 billion, with exports of \$483.2 million and imports of \$668.2 million. The Soviet Union and Japan were the principle trading partners. In overall terms Afghanistan's total trade volume

declined by 7.26 per cent in 1987-88 over the previous year, while reports declined by 15.75 per cent. Afghanistan is one of the world's least developed countries.

Modern history: The country was ruled by King Zahir Shah from 1933 until 1973 when the monarchy was overthrown in a bloodless coup. Mohammad Daoud, the king's cousin, became the country's first president, heading a moderate left-wing government.

Daoud was killed in 1978 in a Marxist coup. Nur Mohammad Taraki became president but was himself overthrown and killed in September 1979. Hafizullah Amin took over but was not to remain long in power.

In December 1979, Soviet troops landed

in Kabul. They seized key buildings on December 27 and Babrak Karmal announced he had taken over the government. Hafizullah Amin was executed.

Karmal was replaced as general secretary (leader) of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) by Najibullah in May 1986. Karmal resigned also as president later in November and Mohammad Tasmakani was made "caretaker" president.

Najibullah became president on September 30, 1987. A traditional government-convened "Loya Jirga" (grand assembly) in Kabul on November 29-30 adopted a new constitution and elected Najibullah president for seven years.

A rebel war pitting Soviet and

Afghan government troops against Western-backed rebel forces began after the Soviet intervention. The UN General Assembly repeatedly voted for Soviet withdrawal and Afghanistan was suspended from membership of the 46-nation Organisation of Islamic Conference.

From June 1982, a UN envoy conducted indirect talks between the Afghan and Pakistani governments to seek a solution to the conflict.

Despite the presence of some 115,000 Soviet troops in Afghanistan, the mujahideen rebels continued to control much of the countryside, and the introduction of US-made Stinger anti-aircraft missiles in 1987 swung the conflict in their favour.

In February 1988 Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and Najibullah announced that Soviet troops could withdraw by February 1989 if Afghanistan and Pakistan reached a settlement at the UN-mediated talks in Geneva.

In April, Afghanistan, Pakistan, the Soviet Union and the United States signed an accord providing for Soviet withdrawal, a halt to outside help for the rebels, the return of Afghan refugees and that Washington and Moscow should oversee and guarantee the plan.

The troop withdrawal took place as planned but the mujahideen continued to reject any compromise with the PDPA or a role for former King Zahir Shah.

ISLAMABAD, March 7,

(Reuters): A coup attempt against Afghan President Najibullah yesterday took place little over a year after Soviet troops withdrew to leave his government to fight on alone against Muslim rebels.

The Soviet troops pulled out after failing to subdue the fierce Mujahideen in nine years of war.

Kabul said last month that in the year since the withdrawal — on Feb 15, 1989 — government forces had killed, wounded or dispersed from the battlefield 58,000 rebels. Government casualties were out at about one tenth of rebel losses.

The claims could not be independently verified but Kabul-based diplomats said Najibullah had at least proved he could hold on to his own militarily and politically.

Like the Mujahideen, however, the government side is riven by internal strife.

Since coming to power in a military coup in 1978, the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan has been divided into two rival factions — Parcham (flag) and Khalq (people).

The following is a chronology of main events since the end of the Afghan monarchy in 1973:

● 1973 — More than two centuries of monarchy ends. King Zahir Shah ousted in a military takeover led by cousin Mohammad Daoud.

● 1978 — President Daoud killed in April coup. Nur Mohammad Taraki elected president of revolutionary council. Islamic groups start armed protests against communist policies.

● 1979 — Hafizullah Amin appointed prime minister, becomes president after shootout in which Taraki is killed.

● 1979, December — Soviet transport planes land in Kabul, troops seize key buildings and radio station. Babrak Karmal becomes president, requests Soviet military aid. Amin executed.

● 1980 — UN General Assembly calls overwhelmingly for immediate withdrawal of foreign troops. Afghan groups in Pakistan form alliance and start receiving weapons from Pakistan, United States, Egypt, China and other backers.

● 1981 — Soviet Union rejects European Community proposals for international conference on Afghanistan.

● 1982 — Pakistani and Afghan foreign ministers hold indirect talks in Geneva.

● 1983 — Heavy fighting between rebels and government in Kandahar. Non-Aligned summit demands foreign troop withdrawal.

● 1984 — Moscow supports UN mediation but has not changed its conditions — including an end to "foreign interference."

● 1985 — Pakistan President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq meets Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, who says he is committed to political solution in Afghanistan.

● 1986 — Security chief Najibullah replaces Karmal as party leader.

● 1987 — Najibullah visits Moscow, announces national reconciliation moves, which rebels reject as propaganda.

● November. Traditional Loya Jirga assembly approves new constitution, elects Najibullah president for seven years.

● 1988, April — Pakistan, Afghanistan, the Soviet Union and the United States sign agreement in Geneva for withdrawal of all Soviet troops from Afghanistan by Feb 15, 1989.

● 1989 — In February, last Soviet soldier leaves and Najibullah declares state of emergency. Mujahideen consultative council, or Shura, elects moderate Siqhatullah Mojaddidi executive president of what they call a provisional government.

JUNIOR TIMES

By Julie Hodgson

"Go on, take one, they won't hurt you" said Jake.

Karen was not as sure as Jake, she had heard many frightening stories, and even one of her friends had died through messing with drugs. Karen's parents had drilled it into her, but here she was in this awful situation with Jake the fake as every one called him.

He was always lying and stealing money to get drugs. He was also quite a bully if he could get his own way.

Karen thought for a long while, and weighed up the advantages and disadvantages

Don't touch them drugs

tages of saying NO TO DRUGS.

Finally she said "No I'm sorry but it's wrong to take drugs, you could get killed so easily, and I don't want to take that risk."

She looked into Jake's face, it was red with anger and humiliation, at being turned down in front of his friends.

"You're a chicken, you silly baby" he almost screamed to try and gain his footing with his so-called friends. But even they backed away, as they, too were thinking of what

Karen had said. They were only young, and they had their whole life ahead of them, why spoil it?

Jake clenched his fist, with the tablets inside, and flung them down his throat, and shouted.

"I don't care about any one I'll get my kicks" with that he ran off. Karen and the rest of the gang knew it would not be long before the drugs hit his blood stream and he would collapse. They ran after him, and turned into an alley where



they saw Jake lying on the ground, Karen quickly

phoned for an ambulance. Within minutes it was their flashing sirens wailing the city. After about two hours Karen and her friends went to visit Jake in hospital.

Jake had, had his stomach pumped, and without the quick reaction of the hospital staff, he would not be alive today. Jake looked sheepishly at his friends, he knew that they did not have to visit him, but they did. Before he drifted off to sleep, he simply said.

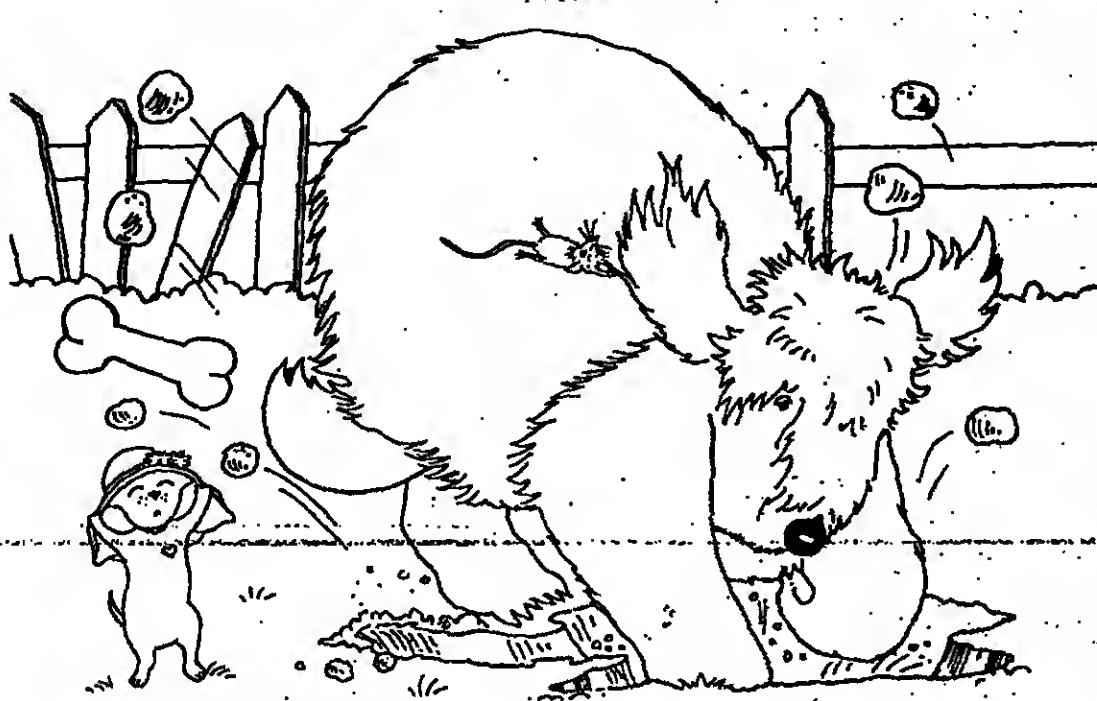
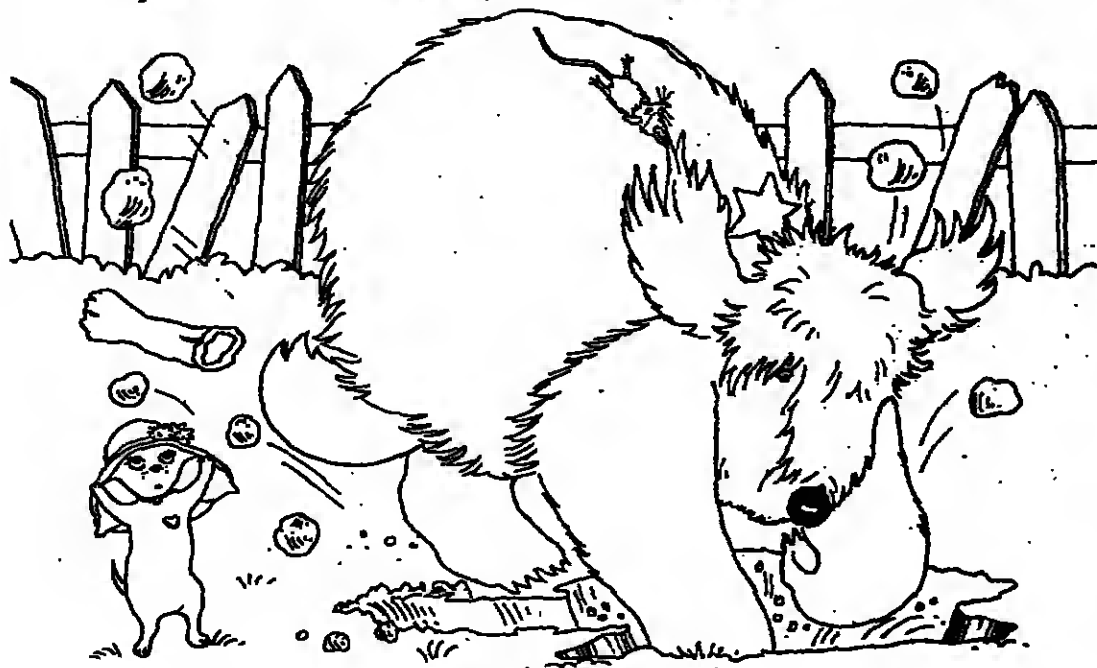
"You were right I was wrong, I'll NEVER take drugs again.... I'm sorry"..... His friends smiled at him, and they headed for home.....

Wordsearch

GO NORTH

ALASKA	HUSKIES	SLED
ANIMALS	IGLOO	SNOW
BEAR	INDIAN	SNOWSHOES
BIRDS	ISLANDS	STORE food
CANADA	KLONDIKE	TIMBER
CANOE	LAKES	TUNDRA
DEER	LOGS	WALRUS
DENS	MALLARDS	YUKON
ELEMENTS	MINE	
ELK	MINERALS	
ESKIMOS	MOOSE	
FISH	MUSKRAT	
FURS	NOME	
Big GAME	OIL	
GEESSE	ORE	
GOLD rush	OTTER	
GUIDE	OUT BACK	
HOMESTEADS	North POLE	
HUDSON BAY	SALMON	
HUNTERS	SKAGWAY	

Spot the differences between these two pictures



Dear Junior Readers,

It has been a busy week for you at school, and I'm sure you are looking forward to a relaxing weekend. Weekends are a good time to refresh yourself after a week of studying. It is fun to sleep in, have a leisurely breakfast and enjoy some sports with friends without thinking about school.

If you have done your homework on Wednesday night, you have the rest of the weekend free to do the things that you don't seem to have time for during the week. Have a good weekend.

Mona

Writer's Handbook

Writing

Get all the things you need before you write. Think about what you did in Step 1. Then choose an idea to write about. You may use words from a Word Bank. Then write as many sentences about your idea as you can.

Revising

Now you can check your writing. This step has two parts.

Part 1: Look at what you wrote.

Read these questions. They will help you make sure your writing is complete.

Do my sentences name things I read about?
Do they tell where the things go?

Do my sentences tell about a character I read about and why the character is a favorite?

Does my story ending make sense?

Part 2: Look at how you wrote it.

Ask yourself questions. They will help you check your work.

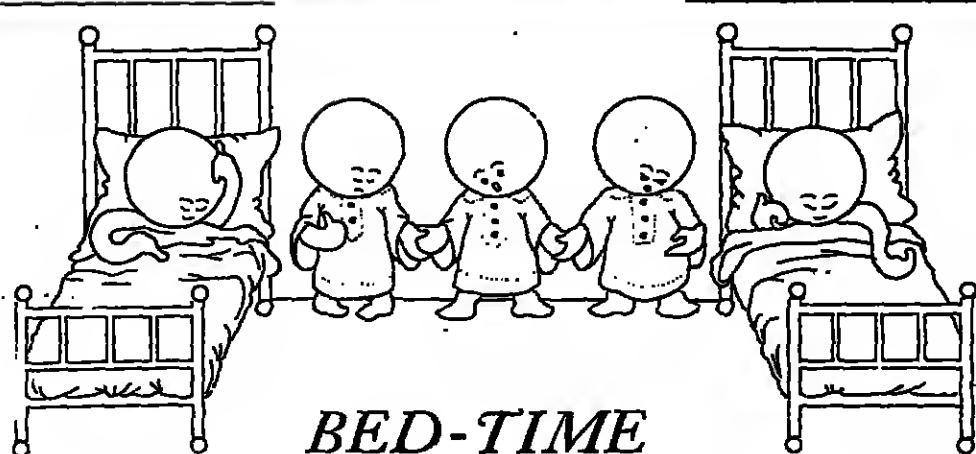
Do all your sentences begin and end correctly?

Are all your words spelled correctly?

Are the date and your name in a line?
Will a ruler help?

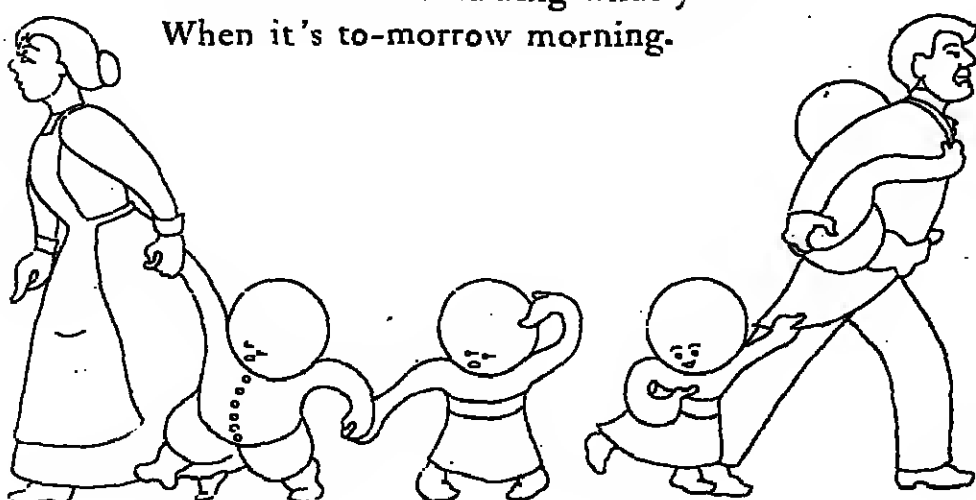
Now use your own paper.
Copy your work.

The Goops again



THE night is different from the day —
It's darker in the night;
How can you ever hope to play
When it's no longer light?

When bed-time comes, it's time for you
To stop, for when you're yawning,
You should be dreaming what you'll do
When it's to-morrow morning.



Desk Quake!

An EARTHQUAKE is caused by forces or movement inside the Earth. A SEISMOGRAPH is a machine that helps scientists measure how big an earthquake was. The force of the earthquake moves the pen on the seismograph to draw lines. These lines tell scientists about the force of the earthquake.



Can the movements of a desk be measured like the movements of an earthquake?

Materials Needed: pen, paper, flat desk

Procedure:

1. Work in groups. Each group has a person who acts as a pen holder to hold the pen steady, a paper mover to guide the paper, and a shaker to "quake" the desk.
2. Do three desk quakes.
3. Mark your quakes where the pen moved most. Cut out this part and paste it on the chart below.

Desk Quake 1
Desk Quake 2
Desk Quake 3

Results and Conclusions

1. Can the movements of a desk be measured like the movements of an earthquake?
2. Is that what you thought would happen?
3. What did you learn?



Hypothesis

YES NO

Firsts and lasts

As recently as 1923 the mortality rate among horse drivers in England and Wales was over 60 per cent higher than that among motor vehicle drivers.

The Rhodan Railway in Switzerland is 245 miles long and traverses 488 bridges and 119 tunnels.

At Knossos, on the island of Crete, there are the ruins of a palace built 4,000 years ago, which contains complete bathrooms, with modern-style drainage systems.

An eighteenth century London woman was so afraid of catching cold that she never washed, but lubricated her face and hands with lard. She lived to be 116.

Heron's have special combs on their toes for scratching off slime from fish. They also treat their feathers with powder produced by special feathers on the body.

Birthday coupon

Is your birthday to come soon?
Are you a regular reader of the Junior Times?
Well, now is the chance to let your friends know that it is your birthday!
Or maybe you would like to surprise your best friend, brother or sister by putting their picture in for them.
The details we need are:

Name: _____
Date of birth: _____
School: _____
Telephone: _____
(confidential)

Your favourite most recent picture (4x6)

Send to:
ARAB TIMES
Junior Times
P.O. Box 2270
13023, Safat,
Kuwait
To avoid delayed greetings, please send within a week before the special date

Happy birthday



Kevin Vaz turns 7 on March 9



Diana Fernandes turns 8 today March 8



Adil Mehboob turns 11 on March 9



Mervin Noronha turns 7 on March 10



Neda Mathews turns 11 on March 10



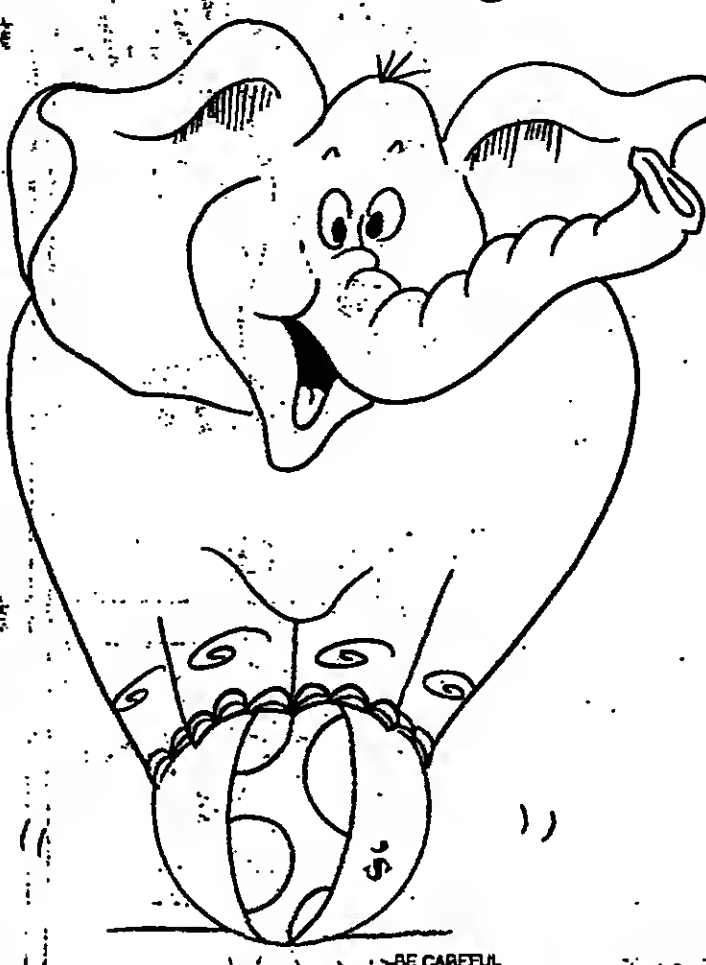
Ashish Ahuja turns 11 on March 10



Happy birthday

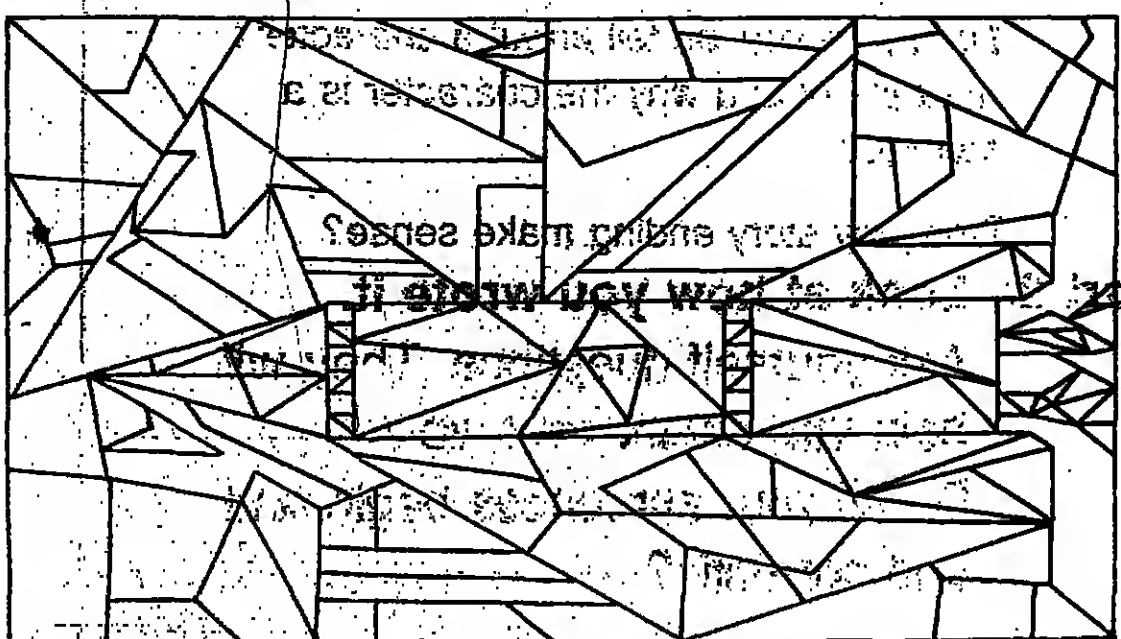
Dua'a Mohammed Morsi family and many of her playmates gathered to celebrate the occasion.

Colour timing



Triangle trouble

Colour all the triangles to find the hidden picture.



Join the dots



"Yum-yum!" FARHAN
GO AHEAD.

Zahed M. Ali

Women's rights in Mauritania

Crusade against polygamy angers fundamentalists

NOUAKCHOTT, Mauritania, March 6, (AP) — Crusading against polygamy and for women's rights, Mariem Bint Ahmed Aisha has angered Islamic fundamentalists in this Muslim nation.

Sometimes the attacks have gotten personal. Mrs. Mariem says critics have urged her husband to divorce her on grounds of religious views. Her 14-year-old son Khalid came home from school in tears one day after a teacher described her as "an infidel woman" who is using her government post to destroy Islam.

Mrs. Mariem said she told her son, "your mother is a good Muslim. She is not what the fundamentalists alleged."

As director of the women's affairs department in President Maouiya Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya's military-dominated government, Mrs. Mariem has been at the centre of religious and political storm since she began speaking out against polygamy last year.

The full 35-year-old says her efforts are not directed against Islam but toward improving the status of women in this North West African nation.

She has long advocated women's equality in the male-dominated society. As a teacher of Arabic, she objected to the traditionalists' view that boys and girls should not attend school together.

Mrs. Mariem also objects to traditional arranged marriages and the idea that women should stay home and care for children. She would like to see the army and police opened to women.

Born to a prominent and wealthy family of doctors, military officers and diplomats, Mrs. Mariem said nothing in particular prompted her to take up the banner of women's rights.

"I received love and respect from my family. But I got married when I was 14 and did not choose my husband."

gave birth to my first child when I was 16," she said.

Mrs. Mariem is not the only woman in the Mauritanian government — Khadjetia Bint Ahmed is Minister of Commerce and Tourism. Several other women also hold important government posts in the Taya government, but they are exceptions.

Mrs. Mariem became the target of fundamentalists in December when she debated the emancipation of women on a Mauritanian state radio broadcast.

"I expressed my point of view on certain issues, among which was polygamy, which is for me a very retrograde practice that doesn't reflect our modern age," she said.

Polygamy has long been a sensitive issue in Mauritania. Aissata Kan, the country's first woman minister in the 1970s, engineered a ban on polygamy in 1976. On the night of the law's approval, her husband left her, only to return a few days later with a second wife.

The anti-polygamy law was subsequently repealed in 1981 when Islamic law, or Sharia, was imposed.

The fundamentalists have again taken up the attack now that Mrs. Mariem has renewed the campaign for a ban on polygamy.

The dispute caused a dilemma for the government. Officials were determined to protect Mrs. Mariem, but at the same time did not want to offend the fundamentalists.

In a gesture of support, the government attached her department to the nation's ruling committee but denied her a promotion to a ministerial post.

Official media, particularly the state-run television, were ordered not to report on Mrs. Mariem's activities. She had already caused a stir by appearing on television in a modified malafa, a traditional outer garment like the Indian sari.



Bill Cosby, following an artistic compulsion

Bunions tunes into jazz

Bill Cosby puts his heart into music

By Ken Franckling

BOSTON: Move over, Fat Albert. Bunions Bradford is in town.

Bill Cosby, a one-man entertainment conglomerate with his TV sitcom, best-selling books and stand-up comedy, has another iron in the fire.

The Coz, one of the most passionate advocates for jazz on the scene today, makes his debut this month as producer, composer and performer on a new series of jazz recordings for the Verve label.

A jazz fan and occasional drummer since he was a kid growing up in the musical hotbed of Philadelphia, Cosby has used "The Cosby Show" on NBC-TV to showcase the music in a variety of smooth ways.

Now, the man who plays drums under the nickname Bunions Bradford takes that passion one step deeper with "Where You Lay Your Head" and several albums to follow.

"The idea goes all the way back," Cosby said in a telephone interview from Las Vegas. "The love as a listener, as a participant, as a dancer, as a partyer. The music has always been that."

Cosby, one of the world's wealthiest entertainers, is not doing this with any grandiose monetary ambition. It is an artistic compulsion he must follow. "It is like Miles Davis painting now," he says, "but this is a lot more expensive."

"It is a happy moment to conceptualize music, have it come out right, and to enjoy it. I get the same feeling as reading a script that is funny and can't wait to go to work."

The first album is a collaboration with keyboard players Harold Mabern, Don Pullen and Sonny Bravo; guitarists John Scofield and Sonny Sharrock; saxophonists Odan Pope, Harold Vick and David Murray; and drummers Jack DeJohnette and Al Foster.

Cosby played percussion on three tracks, staying away from the drum kit entirely in the all-star company of Foster and DeJohnette. "I can't play what I think," he said.

"Those drummers are so hot. I'm mostly single stroke."

All five extended tracks were written by Cosby and his longtime musical partner and co-producer, Stu Gardner. While the lineup of the band shifts, all of the music has a solid rhythmic groove. Cosby draws on the players' adaptability and individual strengths for backdrops in R-B, rock and avant-garde to bring his own musical concept to life.

The first album sounds as if Cosby wants to give some very personal contemporary focus at a time in which jazz is fragmented into countless subcategories. Or perhaps he is trying to bring some substance back to fusion that the jazz/rock/R-and-B amalgam lost in last two decades.

Mostly, he wants music that listeners can enjoy, dance to (an almost forgotten element in jazz), and that will challenge their imaginations.

As a leader on this session, Cosby was right in the thick of things. He'd hum or sing his melodic ideas, which Gardner would write down for the musicians. Then Cosby would tell each player the kind of sound he was looking for.

"I would give them pictures," he said. "I'd say: 'I want you to think 1950s rock and roll, or sidewalk church music.'"

"When I asked the musicians to take specific approaches, most of the time, it was something they enjoyed trying," Cosby said. "To have a guy like David Murray be so happy to come in and adjust the way he is playing was a thrill. I don't think you can recognise at first that it was David, yet it was a fun project for him."

The strongest and longest cut, at 13:59, is "Why Is It I Can Never Find Anything in the Closet." It is the lone appearance for Pullen and Sharrock.

Nasty shock of home front turmoil, separation

By Brian Hollis

PASSION, love, divorce and *juridure* play integral part in *The War Of The Roses*, a new dark comedy reuniting the successful trio of Michael Douglas, Kathleen Turner and Danny DeVito. But this time the time is not romancing stones or seeking jewels. *War Of The Roses* is a relentless, single-minded domestic horror film, filled with degrading insults and violence, as well as the more subtle bids and wounds.

Oliver and Barbara Rose meet as competing bidders in an auction, and 17 years later are drifting along in a banal marriage with kids almost grown up, and Oliver wrapped up in a mindless law career. The proverbial hits the fan when Barbara decides to ask for a divorce. Neither wishes to give up their magnificent house, and it becomes the battleground in a bitter struggle without quarter to property, bodies or emotions.

Director De Vito frequently punctuates the action with Greek-chorus like commentary, drawing the most sober

conclusions from the hideous events he's recounting. As Oliver's lawyer and Barbara's longtime friend, he is in a perfect position to offer unbiased asides. His camera takes the worst of human behaviour and lets it play itself out to its nasty end. However, the many laughs he elicits are often not so much giggles of amusement as the more tense laughs of nervous fear. A mature drama from mature film-makers.

Glory is another powerful film which focuses on a little known aspect of the American civil war. This true document focuses on the formation of the first black fighting regiment raised in the North in 1863. Led by 25-year-old colonel Robert Gould Shaw (Matthew Broderick), the regiment consists of hundreds of black men, still suffering under the burden of slavery and eager to fight for their adopted homeland as evidence of their fierce desire to be treated as equals. Shaw soon finds out that his unit is destined only for manual labour and work in the worst possible conditions. His repeated efforts secure equal pay,

uniforms and even acceptable footwear, but his biggest struggle is in getting a battle assignment. They are finally assigned to a doomed assault on Fort Wagner, near Charleston, and when the bullets stop, half the company, including Shaw, are dead.

Once the spotlight moves off the very unlikely casting of Broderick, the film hursts to life as it concentrates on the soldiers — men who know not only that they will most likely die in battle, but that if they survive, poverty and oppression will still be their lot. A moving if somewhat grim tale.

The release of a new Walt Disney cartoon feature is always a special event, but *Oliver and Company*, their 27th animated feature has a huge box office success to back it up. Although he's never had a kitten in his gang, Fagin is happy to enlist orphaned Oliver into his merry band of pickpocket pooches. The scenario very loosely follows the original, in the manner of Disney's most successful cartoons, but of course it's not more soup that this Oliver wants, but more milk.

For those who want some straight forward thrills, *Hide In The House* is not particularly original, but nicely handled and quite believable. Tom (Gary Busey), who once burnt down the family house, killing his parents, seems to be readjusted when he is released from detention. He sees work being done on a new house and decides he can happily block off a part of the loft. The family hear him moving about and suspect rats. But the pest exterminator disappears along with the family dog and a family friend. Then he introduces himself to Julie and kids as their neighbour. Will he become accepted or turn nasty again?

Nightlife is about vampires but turns out to be a slick comedy rather than horror. Maryam D'Abo is dug up by archaeologists investigation the mummifying properties of swamps. Waking up she wanders into Mexico City for breakfast and pops into blood bank to make a withdrawal. Enter Ben Cross as an old time vampire in search of his lost bride. But Angelique doesn't want to fall back into his old evil ways, now she has

found 'legal' food. It may sound stupid, but in fact this is quite a delightful comedy, culminating in a "High Noon" style bite-out.

Bob Hopkins reappears as co-writer and star of his directing debut *Raggedy Rowney*. It starts promisingly as a timeless fable set against an unidentified war backdrop, but subsides into a rather precious adventure, lacking in focus and tension. A young mute deserts from the army and joins up with a colourful band of travelling folk. His face painted, to avoid detection he is mistaken for a woman, and more significantly for a 'Ragwey' — a magically mad person who can foretell future events. The movie looks good and there are some touching moments, but the decision to couch the dialogue in earthy colloquial Anglo-Saxon reduces much of the sweeping canvas to a sort of rustic Eastenders.

The above films are by courtesy of VFL, Farwaniya/Fintus, Video Naut, Salsiya Complex, Video Club, Salsiya



Kathleen Turner, Danny DeVito and Michael Douglas in *War of the Roses*



Roopa Ganguly as Draupadi in the television epic Mahabharat.

Roopa confident

A Draupadi in the television epic Mahabharat, Roopa Ganguly is the primetime sensation on Indian TV. Men like her style — women her fiery personality. Many young TV performers have fizzled out, but Roopa is confident of staying on and is working in films by Basu Chatterjee and Mahesh Bhatt.

Q. After playing Draupadi in "Mahabharat", you seem to have fallen back in Bombay's show world.
A. Draupadi gave me popularity. Wherever I go people crowd round me and call me by that name. Yes, I don't have as many films as others. But that alone is not a sign of success. I have not fallen behind.
Q. Do you have offers of good Hindi films?
A. I have Kadar Kashmiri's "Aman Ke Farishte", a film by Mahesh Bhatt and also possibly one of Ravi Chopra. In Bengali, I have a dozen films.
Q. It means shuttling between Bombay and Calcutta?
A. Yes, I go wherever work calls. At present in Bombay, I don't

have a regular address, except c/o B.R. Chopra Films. Moreover, working in Bengali films is more satisfying.
Q. In what way?
A. Good stories, intelligent directors, at times entry in international festivals. Bengali is my mother tongue and I got my major break in it. I first did "Nirupama" and got noticed thru the TV serial "Ganadevita" based on a Bengali novel. Actually I had plans to become an architect. Q. It is rumoured that you are proud and put off people with airs?
A. Success brings as many enemies as fans. I don't like to chat up anybody and everybody. I am reserved and so people are bound to misunderstand.



Sujata Mehta and Mohsin Khan in Lathi Charge

● What's the use of the new art cinema in Bombay inaugurated by Minister P. Upendra? Here the N.F.D.C. has to share its shows with the Marathi stage theatre despite giving huge easy loans. So, film shows, are in the afternoons and evenings on weekdays but are held at noon and nights on the crucial Saturday and Sunday. No wonder, the opening film *Madane Soudaraka* drew a poor response despite Shabana Azmi acting in a British film. What N.F.D.C. should have done is to acquire any one of the many dying theatres in the city and run it on lease. See what West Bengal did to Minerva in Calcutta. Then it would have got a good locality and regular shows.

● Why did TV under the new regime decide to dig out the old American film *Meet John Doe* for a special telecast? Everyone who saw it at once said that *Main Azaad Hoon* is a scene-by-scene copy of it. Obviously the idea was to embarrass Amitabh Bachchan and the type of films he had promoted to attack the opposition. But in the process, the person who got exposed as a copy-cat was writer Javed, husband of Shabana Azmi, the chairperson of Children's Film Society and favourite of the new government.

● For a few reels of *Baap Numberi*, fiery Farha cannot even be recognised. She has grown bulky chubby round, in expressive face. Not that she tries, too, to move her facial muscles. Reasons for this clumsy change? If it is love, marriage and good-bye to films, it will be good riddance, too.

● It is strange that On Puri and Kamal Hassan got Padmasri, the annual national titles, from the new government. Logically it should have gone to Shatrughan Sinha, Raj Babbar, Shabana Azmi or producer Atmaran, some of whom were expecting it, too. But then, would it not look too obvious a reward? One upright journalist declined it on the same grounds. Anyway, film people don't believe in such scruples. So better luck next year!

● Sujata Mehta spoils her career by putting on airs, being loud-mouthed and crossing swords with producers. Now she has no image worth talking about. What should she do... comedy, melodrama, romance? But she has hardly a few films, the only big one being B. R. Chopra's *Dharam Shakti* with Mithun. Well, it's never too late to mend (ways).

Indian Cinema

Cine-goers favour romance, violence crashes

By Firoze Rangoonwalla
Arab Times special correspondent

WHILE most of the formula films bank on violence and action yet crash headlong at the box-office, a few films have come up to tread a somewhat different thematic path and win sizeable number of cinegoers.

In the lead is Rajshri Pictures' *Maine Pyar Kiya*, released in late December last year, is already on its way to becoming one of the biggest hits of 1990. The Barjatya family, which had made many big winners some years ago and then stopped production, has once again hit the jackpot. It is drawing steady crowds in the big cities but in the small centres and mid-towns it has become a craze. This is an amazing achievement in the reign of video and TV.

What is so special about the film and what are the reasons for its success? It would be worth analysing this as a guiding factor, for the industry struck by crisis after crisis. *Maine Pyar Kiya* uses the minimum of violent fights and puts its accent on romance, family life and even a bit of socialist thought. That people flock to see it and re-view it is clear indication that they are saturated with screen violence and want to turn away from it. To that extent, the Rajshri film is refreshing, convincing and close to reality.

Yet, this is only the surface. There are deeper factors. A young-love story, lavishly presented in an attractive new style, at least in the major two-third (the last few reels and the climax being disastrous), with fast tempo sometimes hectic is gripping cinegoers. The script piles up short quick scenes one after another (at times only a few shots), judiciously editing dull moments, during the romance and the conflicts it gives rise to.

Much credit for its popularity has gone to music — nine songs — tuned by Ram-Laxman. They are no doubt a range and give repeat-value to the film. After a long time, there is so much of Indianness in the songs. People throw coins or whistle excitedly at numbers like *Kahoote hain jaa jaa, Dil Diwana, Tu chah main aaye* and the musical game of *Antakshori*. In this, several old film songs are re-sung by catching the last word of the line as a cue. The script uses it cleverly to make the young heroine admit "I love you" in her own way.

Yet, songs are not all. There is the fresh romantic pair of Bhagyashree and Salman Khan. The girl exploits her sexy face and innocent without indulging in vulgar dresses or exposure. The film remains "vegetarian," despite Hume Khan's dances, a needless intrusion. Salman is a more handsome version of Sunjay Dutt, with a stronger clearer voice, too. And it is to the credit of India's secular state that Hindu Bhagyashree and Muslim Salman Khan have become the country's heart-throbs, though of course they both play Hindus in the film. And that also further proves the strength of the screen illusion, overcoming personal names. If Bhagyashree had not married and retired so soon, she would have proved a strong threat to many heroines.

Another much-trumpeted attraction is the four-track stereophonic sound, along with the "scope" screen. Both have enough grandeur to beat the small video screen, which is nowadays further eroded by commercials. The four-track sound effect has been cleverly used to make an additional impact, separated from the visuals, like the Islamic prayers in a solemn scene. Many theatres were specially equipped for this. Where it was not economical, the Rajshris offered a two track alternative.

Nothing is really new in the film, starting from the title, taken from old film songs. The love story is a pastiche of plots ranging from *Bobby* to *Shirin Farhad*. In one scene, the girl's father repeats a dialogue which Prem-nath said to Rishi in *Bobby* and in another, the boy makes way through a mountain, as Farhad did for his royal beloved. The thrilling aspect is of a fabulously rich heir giving up everything to labour for his love in a village. But it should not have dragged in the usual "thrills," fights with a lorry driver and sundry goondas of a rival. It is as needless as the silly comedy of the family servants.

The new director Sooraj Barjatya, the youngest barin in the family, never studied at any film institute. But he was apparently, trained in the film "schools" of Raj Kapoor, Vijay Anand, Raj Khosla and many others through



Director Sooraj Barjatya directing Bhagyashree in Maine Pyar Kiya.

viewing of old films. But the mixture has its own sure individual touch and smart new ideas. It's good to see that supporting characters are given their due place and some casting strokes achieved, like using Rima Lagoo as a screen mother, TV talents Rajiv Verma, Alok Nath, Ajit Vachhani, stage artists like Parveen Dastur, the Marathi film funster Lakshmi Kant Berde and even a performing pigeon called Handsome who also gets happily married in the end.

Yet, all said and done, the huge success of *Maine Pyar Kiya* cannot be grudged, because it offers a change of track from vicious violence and any alternative to it is welcome. The same can't be said wholeheartedly for *Baap Numberi*, *Beta Dus Numberi*. It is promised and packaged as a full-length comedy but makes too many awkward mixtures and compromises. The core idea, of a father-son men is quite brilliant and the audience is amused by their being one up, not only on the gullible victims but also on each other.

Yet this was not thought enough box office material by young director Aziz Sejwal and his backers Hancef and Sameer, who are ironically big shots of the video business. (Their partner Mithun does not star in the film, so he is complimented with a

huge cut-out during a song-dance). The hilarious pranks of Kadar Khan and Shakti Kapoor could have been backed by other characters. Instead, they are sidetracked to give way for the goonda tricks of Jackie Shroff and Farha on one hand and the silly romance of Aaditya and Sabiha on the other. (Both the heroines show an awful screen appearance). Nevertheless, the film can be enjoyed for whatever simple fun it provides, despite the few fights. And it has done better business than *Awari* or *Zehreley*.

Yet, another turn-away is

Sawan Kumar's *Souten Ki Beti*, framed within the domestic set-up. The star power of Jaya Prada as the wife, Rekha the other woman with an illegit daughter and Jeetendra sandwiched between them, along with the noble sentiment of the wife's sacrifice did click at the box. It had good takings and packed houses at many centres. Of course, it does turn into a squeaky melodrama, with clumsy songs and foolish scenes, like marriage at a funeral. But at least, some films are proving that angry heroes and endless fights are not the only food for box-office.



Kader Khan plays a comical role in Baap Numberi, Beta Dus Numberi



Rekha and Jaya Prada in Souten Ki Beti.

Amala in the news . . .

With *Jurrat* around the corner, Amala is once again in the news — this time for acting in some of the most torrid scenes shot in recent times. Will this ensure that the Bengali actress, who has been making news down south, gets a toe-hold in Bombay's bigtime? If previews of Rajendra Kumar's *Jurrat* are to be trusted, the animal activist is definitely going to make a stunning impact. (*Jurrat* was recently released on video in Kuwait.)

Star slips

Randhir Kapoor: "We Kapoor have a very loud exterior; that's why people misunderstand us."

Asha Chandra: "Dev Anand must retire, take a trip around the world, have a few women and call it a day."

Vinod Khanna: While it lasted, my relationship with Amrita Singh was very passionate, very happy. I was faithful to her for all the time we were together."

Jaya Prada: "In Bombay's film world, the systems are very odd. People lie on every step. They indulge in scheming and engineer fights all the time."

Nana Patekar: "If Dharmendra's Punjabi diction can be accepted by people from other provinces, why can't my Marathi diction get acceptance?"

Rohini Hattangadi: "Artists tend to get attached to co-stars. That's why there are so many affairs. But then there should be a limit to getting friendly."

Rats feast and peasants go hungry in Tanzania

PEASANT farmers and their families in the Lindi and Mtwara regions are suffering from rat invasions. All the fruits of a plentiful food crop season have been lost to the rodents, reports Cleophas Rwechungura from Lindi, in southern Tanzania.

The outbreak in these southern regions is so serious that farmers have been left with few food reserves in their homes.

"I planted maize at the outset of the short rains," said Omary Mpwagwa, "but I soon discovered that rats had eaten all the seeds before they had even germinated. Then I switched to sorghum, which requires shorter rains. They took this too. I have lost hope."

The Rodent Control Centre estimated that at its height the infestation rate of the rat population was about 700 per hectare and crop damage was close to 100 per cent. After treatment, the rat population fell to about 100 per hectare.

Poisoning operations, however, are hampered by inadequate infrastructure and only modest government commitment to longer term solutions. Field workers do not receive sufficient allowances to buy food, which is already scarce in the area. They have too few vehicles and those available are ramshackle. Insufficient recurrent and development funds are allocated to rodent control.

The situation has arisen although Tanzania was given Danish technical and financial aid to develop basic models for practical rodent control in typical rural areas.

Botswana

From headscarf to hardhat is women's cry

OUT of the fields and onto the construction site is the rallying cry of some seeking women in Botswana, reports Keimette Keimette from Gaborone.

Traditional homebuilding has always been a woman's task in Botswana but modern building has, up to now, been a preserve of their menfolk. Now, however, a new company in Gaborone, Brick Force, is employing women to mould bricks.

The work mainly consists of shovelling sand onto a conveyor belt or packing bricks onto a transporting trolley in wheelbarrow loads to a stacking area. Both tasks are hard manual labour requiring muscle power. But the women are not complaining.

"Building work is like any other," says Martha Ramagapye, "it's the same hard work as when we work at home. In the villages we grind corn, build mud huts, collect 20 kilo head-loads of earth, mix it and make it ready for building, and on top of that we are still expected to till and weed the fields."

"Women have never been excused from hard work in our society," she points out.

Capacity

In terms of capacity to work, women are just as good as men, says Ndaki Samuel. She has no problems with shovelling sand onto the conveyor belt and often has a laugh when she notices a man running out of breath before she does.

"With improvements in working conditions," she says "women can prove just as productive a work force as men. Even more so because we women are more disciplined. We are not always breaking off for a pint of chibuku (local beer)."

It was evident that the women do not desire any privileges for themselves on the basis of gender even though working conditions are still by and large primitive. The women have no protective clothing and neither helmets nor hard shoes.

Botswana has laws on safety at the workplace. But employers conform to, or ignore, these at their whim. Few workers on construction sites, men or women, are unionised so breaches of the law go unmonitored and uncorrected.

Joint effort to show US films in Soviet Union

WASHINGTON, March 7. (AP) A US company announced yesterday to open multiple-screen movie theatres next year in Moscow and Leningrad, where audiences will be allowed to eat popcorn in their seats for the first time.

The two ultra-modern theatres are expected to open in late 1991 at a cost of \$28 million, and will offer the Soviet Union's avid moviegoers a total of 19 new screens and 7,400 new seats to enjoy popular foreign and domestic films. US and Soviet officials said.

The theatres will feature state-of-the-art projection and Dolby stereo sound systems, computerized ticket booths, concession stands in marble and neon lobbies, restaurants, souvenir shops and video game arcades, with parking lots out front.

American popcorn, a novelty to Soviet audiences, will be sold along with candy and soft drinks. And in a break with Soviet tradition, moviegoers who formerly were required to consume refreshment at huffier counters in theatre lobbies will be able to carry their seats to the new theatres.

"Hooray for Hollywood and Leningrad and Moscow, too," said Time Warner President N.J. Nicholas Jr. at a news conference at the Soviet embassy. Soviet Ambassador Yuri Dubinin boasted, "The healthy future of this Soviet-American child."

The project is a joint venture between Time Warner, a worldwide publishing and entertainment conglomerate whose Warner Bros. International Theatres Co. subsidiary will own 60 per cent of the theatres, and the official Soviet Film Agency, V/O Sovexportfilm, which will own 40 per cent.

The announcement came less than two months after McDonald's opened its first fast-food restaurant in the Soviet capital, Jan 31, serving an opening-day record of 30,000 meals to hungry Muscovites.

Plans for the two new theatres doubtless will be good news to Soviet moviegoers, who see an average of 14 films a year compared to the four seen by their American counterparts, according to industry estimates.

By contrast, the new Warner multiplex in the Soviet capital will boast 10 screens and 4,000 seats. It will be built on Novokirovsky Prospekt near a major railroad and subway terminal.

Oleg A. Rudakov, the jowly, bushy-browed general director of the Soviet Film Agency, said the new theatres will be free to show potentially controversial American movies such as "The Hunt for Red October," the newly released, pre-1980 tale of a Soviet submarine commander who defects to the United States.

FAMILY DOCTOR

By R. ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

USE CAUTION IN CARING FOR PATIENT WITH RARE DISEASE

QUESTION: I'm a state-certified nursing assistant. I work in a nursing home and have had contact with a resident who has "Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease." What can you tell me about this disease?

ANSWER: It's also called "subacute spongiform encephalopathy" and was first described by Dr. H.G. Creutzfeldt in 1912. It's defined as a progressive, invariably fatal, slow viral disease of the central nervous system. The disease occurs worldwide, but how it's spread from person to person is still unknown. It affects men and women alike, usually past the age of 50. It is probably due to some infecting organism, but a hereditary family form has been described.

The first sign of the disease is often self-neglect, apathy or irritability, with some patients complaining of weariness and fatigue, while others speak of drowsiness, insomnia or other sleep disorders. Within a brief time, disorientation and confusion appear, and gradually many of the higher intellectual functions of speech, reading, writing and the sense of smell become affected and are gradually lost. There may be many ocular disturbances, including a dimming of vision, and many abnormalities of movement with rigidity of the limbs, and tremor present along with loss of power and an altered gait.

All these signs and symptoms are a result of the gradual degeneration of many areas in the brain. Finally, a dementia sets in and the disease ends in death, after a brief three- to 12-month course, commonly as the result of the complication of a pneumonia.

There are no specific treatments for the disease, except for routine care to help reduce symptoms. Of particular interest to you is the need for caution in handling all fluids or other materials from these patients to prevent transmission. Many standard methods of sterilization are ineffective, and steam autoclaving at 132 degrees Centigrade for one hour, or soaking in sodium hydroxide solution for one hour is recommended for all materials.

QUESTION: With both my father and uncle passing away recently from strokes, I'm now concerned that the same fate awaits me. What is the likelihood that these events can predict my future? Would you have any suggestions that might change my odds?

ANSWER: Unfortunately, you may have a higher risk of stroke than people without a family history of the problem. Some predispositions to stroke are inherited and most stroke victims have a parent who has suffered a stroke. The greatest risk factor for a stroke, however, is high blood pressure. People with high blood pressure are two to four times more likely to have strokes than people without elevated blood pressure. Black people die of strokes almost twice as often as white people in the 35-74 age range. That's because of the greater incidence of high blood pressure among blacks. Heart diseases that allow blood clots to form also increase the chances of suffering stroke. Diabetic runarounds double the normal risk for strokes. Although people of any age can suffer strokes, 80 per cent of the time they occur in people 65 or over.

You can reduce your chances of becoming of stroke victim by eliminating some of the risk factors. Pay attention to your blood pressure, keep your weight under control, and get started on regular exercise program. Refraining from heavy drinking and understanding that smoking is absolutely forbidden can help you even out the odds.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

'Big three' agree to preserve the status quo

Opec likely to cut oil output

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times Staff

DESPITE their differences on output and pricing policies, Opec ministers meeting in Vienna March 16 are likely to succumb to pressure from Kuwait, Iraq and Saudi Arabia to restrain the Opec output to 22 million barrels a day in the second quarter, diplomatic and oil sources have said.

The three major Opec producers, who themselves do not see eye to eye on the issue of prices, recently agreed in Kuwait to "preserve the status quo" agreed at the last Opec ministerial session in November. The organization agreed on a 22-million-barrel

daily production ceiling with the aim of defending the \$18 per barrel price for the first six months of 1990.

Known as the big three because they jointly account for half of Opec's production, 60 per cent of its reserves and 80 per cent of its surplus capacity, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Iraq hold sway in the organization.

To maintain the price around the Opec's target of \$18 per barrel Opec, which currently produces some 1.5 million barrels per day above the output ceiling, will have to cut down on production, analysts said. The demand, usually strong in the winter, is expected to taper off in the second quarter, which may lead to over-supply and a drop in

prices. But decisions on over-production largely depend on individual producers' perception of the market. Analysts claim that Opec has shown restraint only at the time of crises.

Kuwait, which does not want oil prices to exceed Opec's reference price of \$18 per barrel, has openly admitted to have exceeded its quota. Convinced that the demand is steadily on the rise Kuwait has suggested that output quotas be scrapped but it decided to table the proposal at the Opec meeting in June, a Gulf-based diplomat said.

"Kuwait maintains that oil in the barrel is more worth than oil in the ground," he said in

reference to Kuwait's high-yield overseas investments. Kuwait wants to plough its surplus oil income into its expanding overseas investment programme.

In direct contrast to Kuwait, Iraq has urged restraint in production to push the price above \$18 per barrel. Saudi Arabia favours a moderate and stable market.

AP adds: Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Khalifa flies to Hungary on Monday in what diplomats described as a serious Kuwaiti drive to gain an early foothold in the oil industry in Eastern Europe following the recent upheavals there.

Sheikh Ali's office told the Associated Press that the minister would fly to Budapest

and from there proceed to Vienna for the March 16 meeting.

A spokesman for the office gave no details as to the minister's activities in Budapest. But officials, who requested anonymity, said that Sheikh Ali would hold talks with Hungarian Minister of Industry Ferenc Horvath and other senior officials on the prospects of investing Kuwaiti petrodollars in refining and marketing oil products.

The state-owned Kuwait Petroleum Corp., and the National Investment Authority, which is mainly responsible for the management of more than \$90 billion of Kuwaiti investments around the world, have been keeping a close watch of the fledgling free

economies in Eastern European countries.

"The Kuwaitis aspire to expand their downstream operations network in Western Europe to the East, but prefer such a process to take place in a gradual manner pending the enactment of adequate investment production legislation," said one official.

"Downstream" operations are such activities as petroleum refining, transport and retail distribution. Sheikh Ali is reportedly resisting pressure by Iraq and other Opec members to raise the petroleum reference price of \$18 a barrel because this hike would turn out to be injurious to Kuwait's downstream business in Europe.

Kuwaitis offered stakes in oil refining

Poland seeks investments

KUWAIT, March 7, (Reuters): The president of Poland's year-old foreign investment agency offered Kuwaitis today stakes in crude oil refining, textile and shipping industries as well as investment opportunities in health care.

"We have no other choice... we are anticipating several big bankruptcies in Poland," Zbigniew Piotrowski told Reuters after meeting Kuwaiti businessmen.

He said his country was facing a strong depression, making existing industries very attractive as relatively cheap prices.

He offered local businessmen a project for medical tourism. "We have lakes and countryside. They can invest in medical treatment centres and attract Kuwaitis and their families to them."

Polish Foreign Trade Minister Marek Swiechowski also visited Kuwait this week to promote exports and offer investment opportunities.

Kuwait, which has an extensive downstream oil network in Western Europe, has so far shown little interest in acquiring

Refineries earned \$284m

KUWAIT, March 7, (Reuters): The Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) said today it earned about \$284 million in its 1989 fiscal year from the 760,000 barrels per day produced by its three local refineries.

The company's financial manager, Abdel Maguid Al Tarabulsi, said that about 36,082 barrels per day (bpd) of oil was consumed locally at subsidised prices while the rest was exported.

Tarabulsi told Reuters that KNPC's net profits in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1989, were \$3.2 million (dinars \$284.2 million) in comparison to 75.59 million dinars (\$258.32 million) the previous year, when domestic refineries produced some 649,000 bpd.

Kuwait, which currently produces about 1.9 million bpd of oil, has aggressively expanded its refining operations both at home and abroad to maximise revenue from its crude.

It has an extensive downstream network in Western Europe, including refineries in the Netherlands and Denmark in addition to more than 5,000 European petrol stations, and is negotiating to extend its operations to the Far East and Eastern Europe.

shares in two Polish refineries in Gdansk and Plock which have a total annual output of 15 million tonnes.

"The negotiations with Kuwait over the refineries are still at an early stage. We are not placing any upper limits (on shares) at the moment for any kind of investment. We are open," Piotrowski said.

Kuwait refines some 760,000

barrel per day (bpd) of its current crude output of 1.9 million bpd at domestic refineries and owns refineries in Denmark and the Netherlands in addition to more than 5,000 European petrol stations.

Piotrowski said a group of American financiers visited him in Warsaw to discuss raising capital to upgrade the two refineries.

Gold dips

Dollar strengthens

LONDON, March 7, (AP): The US dollar rose strongly against most other major currencies in moderate European trading today, despite central bank interventions to stem the dollar's rise, dealers said.

Gold prices fell sharply, ending below \$400 an ounce in London.

Dealers said the effectiveness of the central bank interventions against the dollar were decreasing day by day.

"The market is bullish, and the central banks hold against it, but the way it looks right now, they won't

succeed in making it (the dollar) weaker," said Werner Bauer, chief trader at Bethmann Bank in Frankfurt. A combination of a lack of confidence in the Japanese yen and the West German mark, and a brighter view of the US economy, is supporting the dollar and could carry the currency higher, traders said.

In London, the British pound fell to \$1.6388 from \$1.6495 late Tuesday.

Other late dollar rates in Europe, compared with late Tuesday:

■ 1.7075 West German marks, up from 1.7005

G-7 meets in Japan amid volatile markets

TOKYO, March 7, (Reuters): Senior officials from the major industrial democracies today met in Japan to discuss ways of coping with volatile financial markets as Tokyo stocks plunged and the dollar soared to its highest level here in eight months.

The officials have kept the location of their highly sensitive talks secret from the press.

Monetary sources said the officials at-

ting were finance ministers of Canada, France, Italy, Japan and Britain, and senior officials from the United States and West Germany.

Market analysts believe Japan will try to convince the other members of the Group of Seven to help shore up the flagging yen, which has undermined the shaky Japanese stock and bond markets.

The analysts also said the Bank of Japan would seriously consider raising its dis-

count rate to help boost the yen after the Central Bank's Governor, Yasuaki Mieno, returned from Europe on March 15.

The Central Bank appears to be willing to raise its key interest rate to help head off the rekindling of inflation by the weak yen.

Mieno leaves Japan today to meet his counterparts in West Germany, Britain and Switzerland, but there is a possibility he may also meet US and other G-7 central bankers.

Colour fax machine developed

TOKYO, March 7, (AP): Japan's Sharp Corp. has developed a desktop facsimile machine that can transmit photograph-like full-colour images, the company announced today.

The company said the fax machine is the first made for general office use that can transmit full-colour pictures, although some newspapers use very expensive fax equipment to send page layouts from one printing plant to another.

The machine can send a photograph the size of a standard sheet of typewriter paper over a regular telephone line in three minutes and can reproduce subtle colour shades, Tetsuaki Muroi, a company official, said.

The transmission time can be cut to about 20 seconds if the fax is sent over digital communications lines, which are used by some companies for telephone calls and data communications, he said.

For each page, the cost for paper and a multicolour ribbon is about 300 yen (\$2), the company said.

In a public test between two Japanese cities Tuesday, the transmitted copy of a photograph closely matched the original, except the colours were slightly darker, Muroi said.

The machine also can send and receive regular black and white faxes, he said.

The machine will go on sale in Japan in the fall for about \$30,000.

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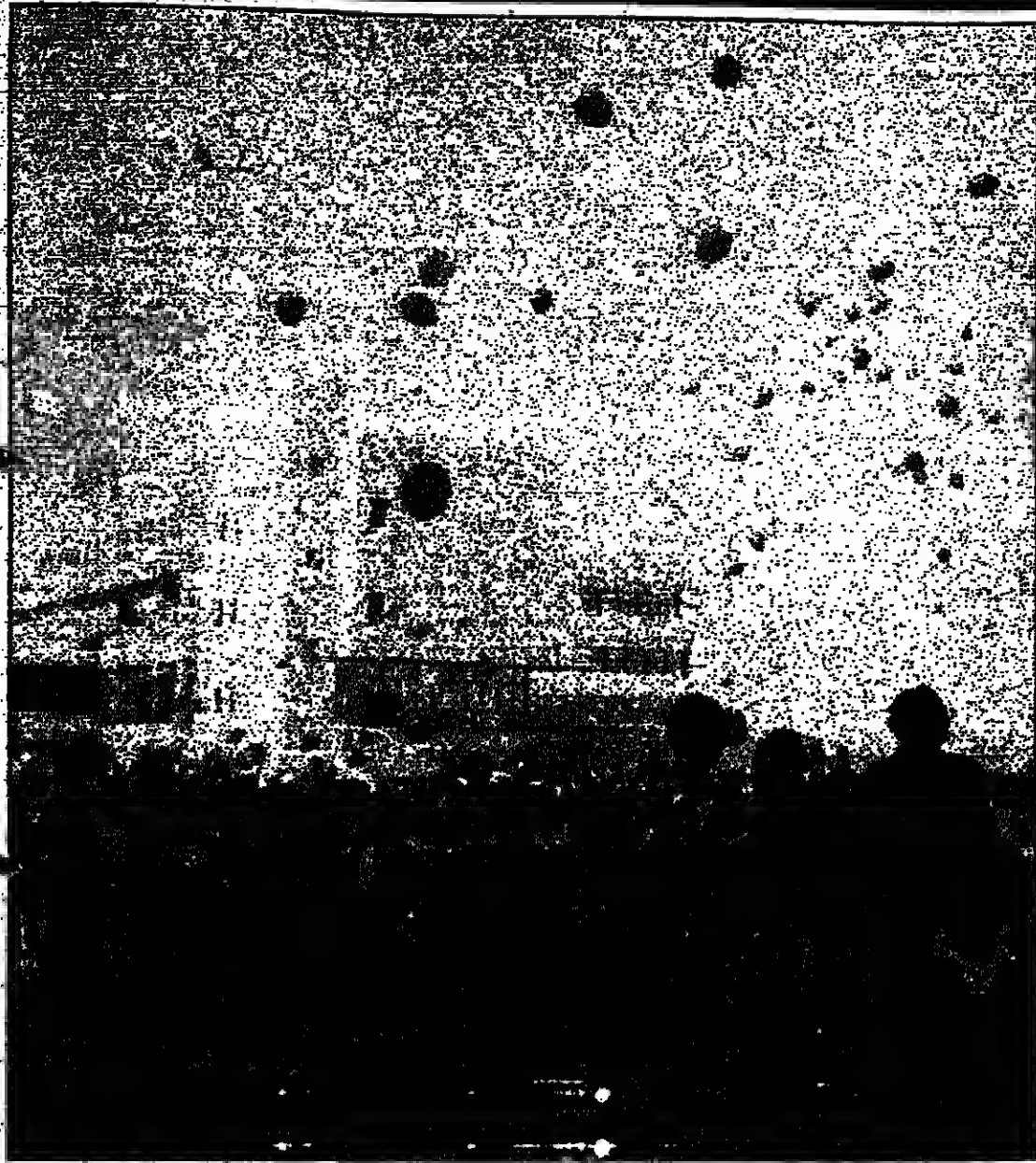
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KACCH celebrates first anniversary



Children watch as balloons rise.

By Lima Al Khalafawi
Arab Times staff

A thousand balloons were released Tuesday by hundreds of school children from the car park of the Amiri Hospital to mark the first anniversary of the foundation of the Kuwait Association for the Care of Children in Hospital (KACCH).

The joyful and uplifting atmosphere in wards 4 and 11 is provided by the association volunteers, according to Beverly Stutely the Play Co-ordinator

of KACCH, who are dedicated to providing every social assistance to emotionally perk-up the spirits of children admitted.

She said that the all-day observation and support offered to children improves the relation between doctors and children, eases their anxiety and overcomes their fear.

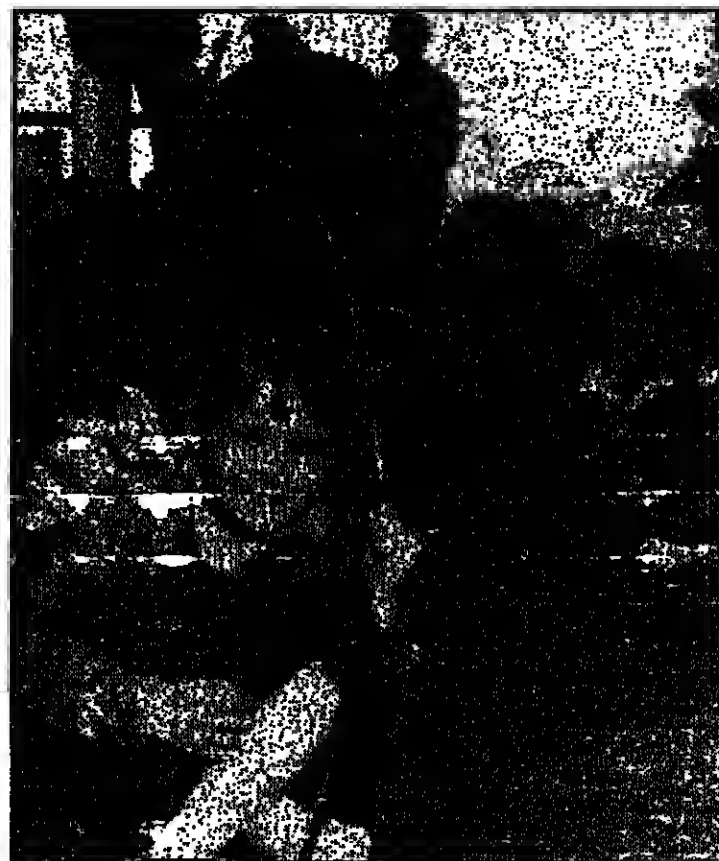
She added that paintings on the walls, toys offered to children and friendship between the volunteers and children sometimes helps to substitute parents when they are not with their children.



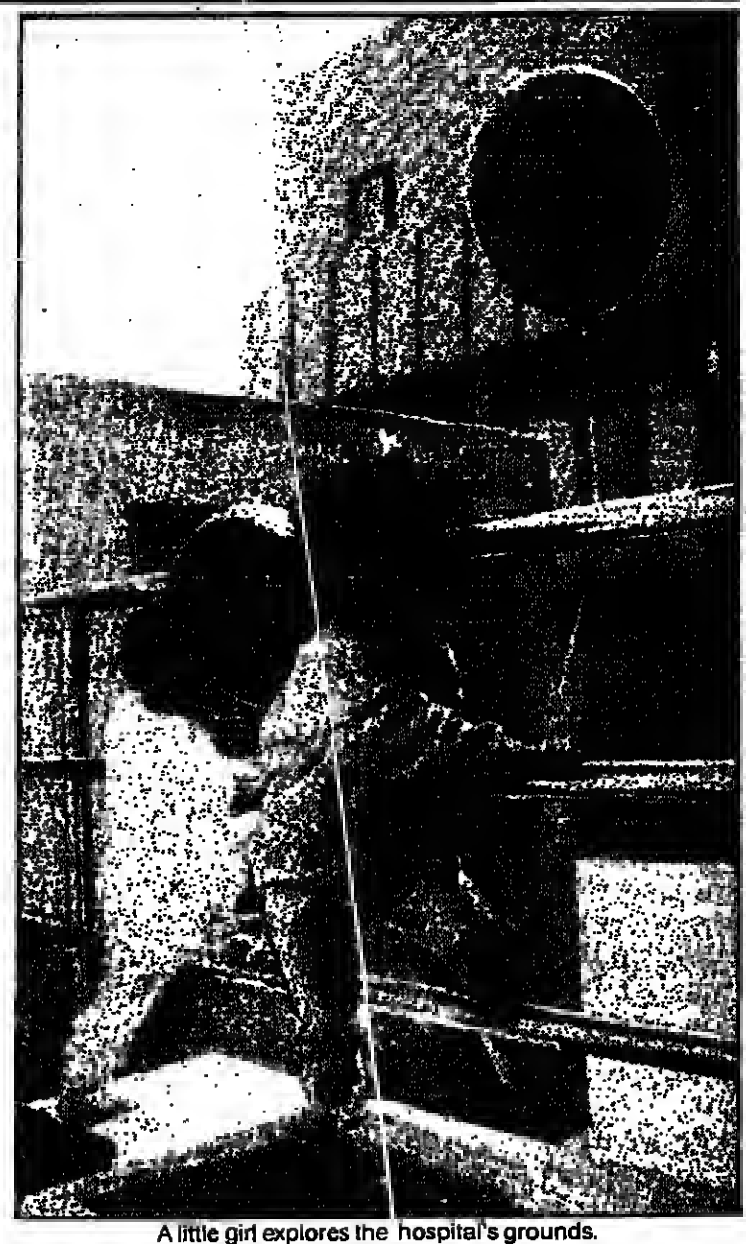
Waiting for the right moment.



Margaret Al-Sayer



Sitting pretty.



A little girl explores the hospital's grounds.

Margaret Al-Sayer of KACCH said that the association is a voluntary organization and is on its way to build a similar project at the Cancer Centre in the near future.

"The atmosphere we create is important to the child's well-being", Sayer said and added that each volunteer has to create a bond of trust and love between the child and herself.

A demonstration workshop was given by Jim Kuykendall, clinical psychologist of the Charing Cross Hospital, London. The aim of the demonstration was to focus on the importance of play within the hospital environment.

The role of KACCH in Amiri Hospital positively leaves an indelible mark in the form of a broad smile on the faces of the children.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Watercolours of Arabia
Recent watercolours by Patricia Millon on exhibition at the Studio, the Tareq Rajab Museum, Jaberia, Saturday thru Thursday 9.30 to 12 and 4.30 to 8 pm, from March 6 to 20, 1990. Tel: 5315397; or 5318060.

Sultan Gallery
Indian artist Shamima Farid is showing a collection of her latest works at the Sultan Gallery, near Rolls Royce showroom. A wide selection of subjects are featured in the paintings of the artist, who has exhibited widely in Kuwait and overseas. However, this is Shamima's first solo-exhibition in Kuwait. Open daily from 9 am to 1 pm and 4 to 8 pm.

SOCIAL

Pakistan Arts Circle is organising a Mushaira (recitation of poets) of selected poets of Kuwait on Thursday, March 8, at Rumaythiya, at the residence of Masood Rasheed Lone at 9 pm sharp.

Invitation cards are available with the secretary of Pakistan Arts Circle, Hamid Mahmood, Tel: 4716258.

Arenowned poet from Delhi is expected and will preside over the Mushaira. Families already registered are kindly requested to collect their cards.

Seminar
The seminar at the DAA, an Arabic and European Art in The Light of Zodiacal Symbolism has been postponed. It commenced on Feb 11 and will be given upto March 11, 1990. Morning sessions on Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 am-12.30 pm or evening session on Sunday and Tuesday 6.00-7.30 pm. Registration may be made by phoning the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyah. Tel: 2430826, 2453259.

Kuwait Little Theatre
KUWAIT Little Theatre presents "Oh Clarence", a comedy by John Chapman, adapted from the books of P.G. Wodehouse. Gala Night is on March 19, 1990, at 7.30 pm with other performances on March 20, 21 and 22 at 8.00 pm. Tickets can be booked by phoning 3919759.

Prize distribution
THE annual prize distribution ceremony of the Bangladesh School, Kuwait, will be held on March 9 (Friday) at 6.30 pm at the Ibn Taimiah Secondary School, Hasawi.

All Bangladeshis are cordially invited.

IAC One-Act Play competition
THE IAC has decided to extend the closing date for the II One-Act Play competition, to be held during May, to March 9. All Indian associations wishing to take part are asked to fill out the appropriate registration form obtainable from the IAC office (3904817) or any one of the organising committee members.

Shakespeare's Macbeth
The London Shakespeare Group who have played in more than 50 countries and who are presently on a tour of Middle East, will present "MACBETH" at the Kuwait English School, Salwa, on 21st and 22nd March at 8 am and 23rd March, 1990 at 6 pm. The cast includes actors and actresses with classical backgrounds who have appeared at London's prestigious National Theatre, various West End Theatres, Television and Radio. For ticket reservations & further information ring: 5740256/7, 5625316, 5718143, or 5731782.

Contact
THE next meeting of Contact, the ladies information group, will be held at Messilah Beach Hotel, 10 am, on Saturday, March 17. Newcomers particularly welcome. For further details tel: 3720197; 4874513; 5388105.

APPROB

ASSOCIATION of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen (Approb) is holding a seminar to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of Pakistan Resolution. Javed Iqbal, the son of the renowned Muslim philosopher and poet, Allama Mohammad Iqbal and a retired justice of Pakistan Supreme Court will preside over the seminar at Sheraton Hotel on March 25th.

Dr. Iqbal will read a research paper on "the struggle to obtain a separate Muslim homeland between Allama Iqbal's Allahabad address of 1930 and the Resolution of Pakistan in 1940." Mrs. Iqbal, a law graduate from the Harvard University and law professor at the University of Punjab, will speak on "the role of Muslim women in society as envisaged by Jinnah and Iqbal." A number of research papers on the Pakistan movement and the ideology of Pakistan will also be read at the seminar to be attended by diplomats and prominent personalities.

Approb will also hold an evening with Dr. Iqbal and his wife on March 24th at the residence of Iqbal Latif to acquaint Pakistani children in Kuwait about the ideology of Pakistan. Dr. Iqbal will meet the Pakistani community at the Pakistan embassy on March 26. For further details, contact Approb: 2425315 Fax: 5323751.

Photography classes
PHOTOGRAPHY classes by Anne Eid beginning Saturday, March 17, in Surra. Call: Anne - 2426135.

Finacor founds Finacor Art

PARIS, March 7: The largest money broker in Continental Europe, recently entered the art market.

Finacor, founded in 1947,

Now at Messilah Beach Hotel Health Club

LIFE Saving Courses with Royal Life Saving Society coach, Grade 1 Examiner will be commencing in March 1990. Ergocycle fitness computer tests and courses now available. Jazzercise/acrobatics/staying power/yoga and ballet exercise classes also available. Swimming classes will commence March 1990.

Daniella Desert Rally
The annual family rally for Danes will take place on Friday, March 23. For registration, please call Henrik - Tel: 3727688/92 ext. 246 before Wednesday, March 14.

SPORTS

Apollo Fitness Centre at Holiday Inn Kuwait
Julie Dent wants you ... to check out the new look at Holiday Inn and make 1990 the year for a happier, healthier you. Squash and tennis courts with professional coaches available. Separate gym facilities for men and women, including steam, sauna and jacuzzi. Burn off those extra pounds in Julie's exercise classes or swim your way to fitness in our heated pools. Why not try out our 4-lanes bowling alley or simply relax in the lounge with friends. You haven't tried the rest, now sample the best. Call in now for further details on membership, activities and events ... There is something for everyone. So, whatever your sport, call now on 4742000 ext. 6700 or ext. 6788 for the recreation manager.

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Baghdad Pharmacy
Abdullah Al Salem St.
Al Ameen Pharmacy
Jaber Al Mubarak St.
Hawalli and Nagra
Al Ikhlis Pharmacy
Beirut St.
Salmiya and Rumaythiya
Al Bader Pharmacy
Belajal Street
Fahad and Almadhi
Al Khaleej Pharmacy
Al Mujama Street
Jahra
Al Najah Pharmacy
The Fourth Area

PRAYERS

Fajr	4.47 am
Zohr	11.59 am
Asr	3.21 pm
Maghreb	5.52 pm
Isha	7.08 pm

FRIDAY

Fajr	4.46 am
Zohr	11.59 am
Asr	3.21 pm
Maghreb	5.53 pm
Isha	7.09 pm

CINEMA

Al Andalus
World Gone Wild
Al Salwa
Batman
Al Hamra
Arab film
Drive-in
Big
Al Firdous
Teezab
Fahad Open
Joga jog
Al Jahra
Arab film
Granada
Ninja Destroyer
Salaikhath
Swagatham
Jeeb
Agnee Path
Ahmadi Drive-in
Arab film

FRIDAY
Al Andalus
World Gone Wild
Al Salwa
Batman
Al Hamra
Arab film
Drive-in
Big
Al Firdous
Teezab
Fahad Open
Joga jog
Al Jahra
License to Kill
Granada
The Ultimate Ninja
Salaikhath
Midnight run
Jeeb
Agnee Path
Ahmadi Drive-in
Arab film

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

9.30 Opening and Holy Quran
9.15 Cartoon Serial
9.45 Sahah Al Kher Programmes
10.00 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.30 Rejal Fi Al Masyada: Weekly Arabic Serial, starring Waheed Saif, Mimi Jamal, Fayza Kamal and Fuad Khaleel
11.30 The Open University: Cultural Programme
12.00 Sahah Al Kher Programmes
12.15 Hewar Wa Nagham: Local Variety Programme, Prepared by Khaled B Haimid and Presented by Nervana Edrees
1.00 News Summary
1.05 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
1.30 Min Ghair Kalam: Variety Programme, Presented by Hassan Mustafa
2.15 Discovery: Cultural Programme
3.00 Varieties
3.30 Liqa Al Khamees: Variety Programme, Prepared by Jameel Homoud and Presented by Ameena Al Sharah
5.00 Saham Al Fadha: Cartoon Serial
5.30 Egypt Information Message in the State of Kuwait
5.45 Night Chemists, Airlines and Official advertisements
6.00 Waqala Hakeem: Historical Serial
7.00 Maa Al Talaba: Local Programme, Prepared by the Ministry of Education Schanlis Activity Department
8.00 Kul Al Fonoon: Local Programme, Presented by Rasha Majdi
8.30 Maa Al Islam: Religious Programme, Prepared and Presented by Dr Khaled Al Mazkoor
9.00 News in Summary
9.45 Ila Al Shabab Maa Al Tahya: Arabic Serial (part 11)
10.45 Thalatha Saat Hareja: Arabic Feature Film: Starring Dalal Abdul Aziz, Mahmoud Al Qalawi, Mimi Jamal and Tareq Dosouqi
12.15 Thursday special late night feature
1.30 News Summary
1.35 The World Today via Satellite
1.50 Holy Quran and Closedown
FRIDAY
9.00 The Opening and Holy Quran

9.15 Cartoons
9.45 Cartoon serial
10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.30 The children magazine: Local children programme, prepared by Ameena Khayri and presented by a group of children.
11.00 Al Ahadeeth Al Mawdooa: Religious programme, presented by Salah Abu Ismael.
11.15 Live from the Grand Mosque for the Friday prayers and speeches.
12.25 Alwan: Local variety programme, prepared by Mohammed Al Fares and presented by Fatema Abdul Wahab.
1.00 News summary
1.05 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
1.20 Al Ahadeeth Al Deeni: Religious programme, presented by Sheikh Mohammed Metwalli Al Sharawi.
2.00 The Friday Break:
3.45 Al hoh we sneeno: Arabic serial
4.45 Shaham Al Fadha: Cartoon serial
5.15 Cartoons
5.30 Varieties
5.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements
6.00 Kuwait Television programmes preview of the week
6.30 Kuwait in a week: News programme, prepared and presented by the News Control Department
7.00 The Living Planet: Cultural programme
8.00 The family programme
8.45 Hadeeth Al Oshoo: Religious programme, presented by Sheikh Ali Al Jassar
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Wrestling
10.30 Sports and Arts: Local variety late night feature, prepared by Khaleefa Al Mtairi and presented by Ibrahim Al Harbi.
11.45 News summary
11.50 The World Today via Satellite
12.15 Holy Quran and Closedown

FRIDAY
6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
6.10 Cartoons
6.30 Walt Disney Movie: "Big Red" An orphan boy protects a dog who later saves him from a mountain lion.
8.00 News in English
8.30 Breaking Away: Recreational and entertainment activities carried out in various parts in Kuwait.
8.45 Rescue: 911. The team carries out a certain number of rescue operations where a number of people are saved in due time.
9.30 The Weekend Programme: A weekly local programme on variety of topics and local activities and events.
10.00 Roseanne. "Inherit The Wind" Rosie's daughter faces certain problems at school.
10.30 The Mystery Wheel. "Last Plane From Coramaya" While an imaginary country, Dr. Oliver who is searching for a lost friend, has to decide how to behave due to the existence of civil war in that country.
11.30 News in Brief
11.45 Magazine D'Actualite

KTV 2

6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
6.10 The Smurfs: A cartoon series for children.
6.30 Mr Wizard's World: A variety of magic acts and illusions... training children on how to use or deal with information...

Help me please

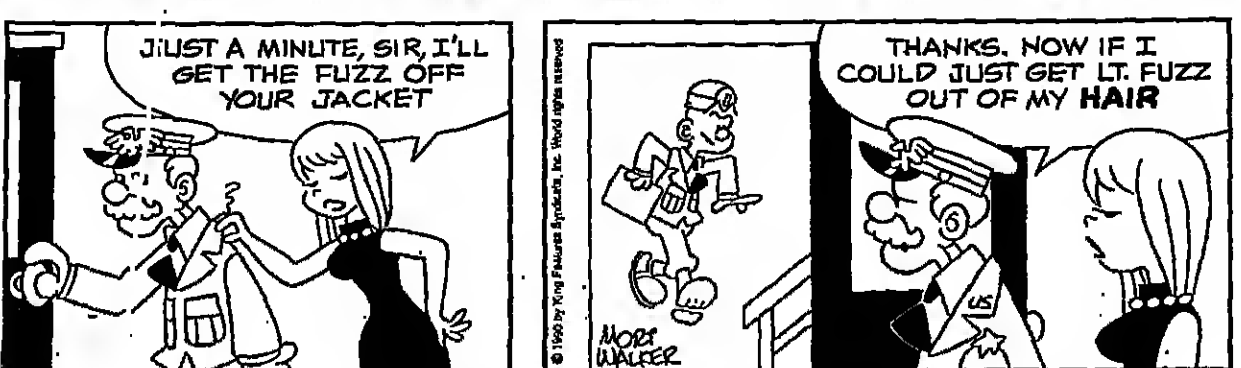
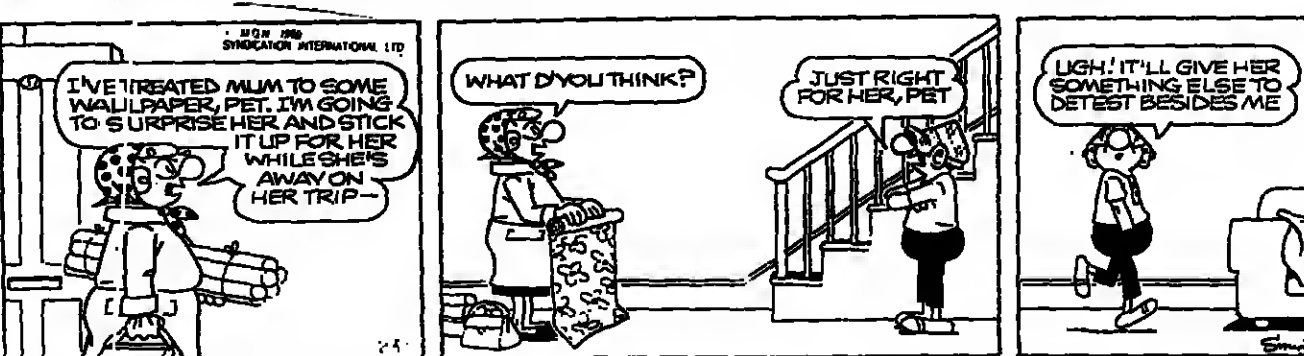
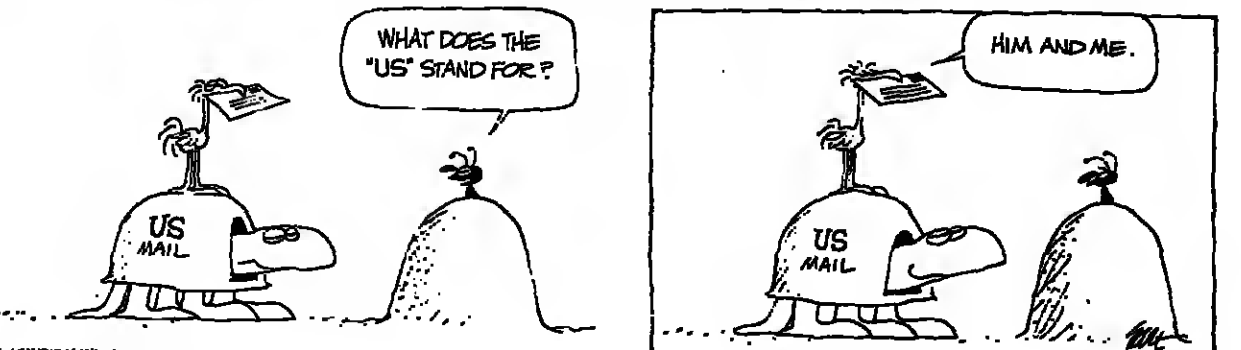
I AM a man who has been working in Kuwait at the Ministry of Education for the past quarter of a century. My son Khaled, who is 18 years old, has recently been diagnosed with cancer. A tumour appeared above his knee. I took him to many doctors in Kuwait who all advised that an amputation has to be conducted on the leg in order to prevent cancer from spreading to the remaining body organs. Two of the doctors advised me to treat my son outside Kuwait. They said that, in Austria, several similar cases have been completely treated without amputation.

An official letter sent to me by the hospital, informed me that treatment and hospitalisation costs are estimated to the equivalent of KD25,000. I have already spent a lot of money during my journey to Austria. We came back to Kuwait while our only son is still fighting this disease. Now, I only have KD4,000—the value of my flat which I sold in Cairo.

I direct this call to all parents, kind hearts, good people, the Zakat House and charity societies to assist me in order to overcome this severe trial.

Certificates have been produced to the Arab Times.

A disconcerted father.
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(AT6-51787-3)

QADSIYA, Area 9, near the co-operative, Al Hatten Street, House No. 28. 2 rooms for Indian and Pakistani families. Bus routes 16, 17, 18, 37, 14, 502, 506. Contact Mr. Sunny personally after 5 pm.

(AT4-51763-3)

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(AT5-51772-3)

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(AT5-51774-3)

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(AT4-51739-3)

SURRA, Area 6, Street 5, House 7. Mithaq with 2 bedrooms, large kitchen with cupboard, CAC, carpet, curtains and table. Suitable for a family. Tel. 5314011.

(AT4-51760-3)

SURRA, 1 storey villa with 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms. Rent KD800. Tel. 2452047.

(AT5-51805-3)

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(AT6-51788-3)

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(AT6-51805-3)

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(AT4-51736-3)

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(AT5-51743-2)

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(AT5-51779-3)

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(AT4-51736-3)

REFRIGERATOR, AC, TV, VCR and oven for sale. Owner leaving Kuwait. Tel. Saad, 2446631, Off. 4332049, Res. after 8 pm.

(AT5-51742-2)

FAMILY leaving Kuwait, selling fridge, video, sofa-bed set with other household items. Tel. Mr. A. Malik, 4316284, after 2 pm on working days. Also Friday except 10 am - 2 pm.

(AT6-51790-1)

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(AT5-51769-2)

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(AT5-51783-2)

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(AT6-51789-2)

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(AT6-51798-2)

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(AT4-51761-3)

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(AT8-MC-HU-3)

3-BEDROOM flat, well-decorated, in Salmiya, near the Indian School, for sale with some furniture. Rent KD220. Tel. 5623196.

(AT6-51791-2)

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(AT5-51752-3)

BRAND new Mitsubishi portable video recorder, Hitachi video camera, Sansui video processor, accessories, Goldstar washing machine. Tel. 4839031, 7 - 9 & 1:30 - 3 pm.

(AT5-5178-3)

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For details Tel. 2612443, 9:30 am - 1 pm, 4-9 pm.

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(AT6-51792-3)

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(AT6-51785-2)

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(AT5-51772-3)

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WANTED immediately 1-1/2 or 2 tonnes AC used 2 to 4 years, preferably National or General. Tel. 5720870.

(AT6-51794-1)

RIGHT-HAND drive car of any model. Tel. 5728233, 6-9 pm.

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(AT5-51770-3)

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GUITAR, at Hawalli. Only interested persons. Tel. 2631826, from 11 am - 4 pm.

(AT6-51759-3)

NURSERY available for all nationalities from 14th March at Fintas, Centrally located. Tel. 3930310.

(AT6-51788-3)

SITUATIONS

Wanted

EXECUTIVE secretary, office asst., Indian, well experienced in self correspondence, shorthand, typing, fax, telex, banking L/Cs, cargo clearing formalities and personnel matters. Tel. 5656927.

(AT6-51778-3)

Vacant

MAID required, Filipino for an English family with 2 children to live-in. Must be good with children. Salary KD40. Tel. 3722797.

(AT5-51783-3)

MAID required for a small Indian family with one child to live-in at Salmiya. Must speak English. Tel. 5624045, 9 am - 3 pm.

(AT6-51776-2)

MAID required, Indian/Sri Lankan for a small family with children, full time or live-in at Abbasiya. Tel. 4337204, 6-9 am, 6-11 pm (Friday full day).

(AT6-51781-2)

DRIVER required for a family. Must have transferable residence. Tel. 4814188.

(AT6-51797-3)

5,000 bid farewell to Gathers

LOS ANGELES, March 7. (Reuters): Fellow students, teachers and friends of college basketball star Hank Gathers, who collapsed on the court and died this week, said farewell to the 23-year-old Loyola Marymount senior with tears and one last cheer yesterday.

At a memorial service, Bo Kimble, Gathers' boyhood friend from Philadelphia, stood in front of his buddy's blue, flower-draped coffin and, with tears running down his cheeks, called on the crowd of 5,000 to give Gathers one last cheer.

"This is for you, Hank, we love you," he said before his voice was drowned out by the cheers.

Kimble, who replaced Gathers this year as the national collegiate scoring leader, recalled their younger days. "We came from the streets of Philadelphia, and there were a lot of tough times, but Hank overcame it all. A lot of people thought Hank wouldn't make it, but he made it."

Gathers, who last year became only the second player in history to lead the country in rebounds and points scored, collapsed and died on Sunday after giving Loyola Marymount the lead in a West Coast Conference Championship game against Portland with a thunderous two-handed slam-dunk.

The game was called off and the championships were later cancelled.

The six-foot seven-inch (two metre) tall Gathers had long been tipped as a future professional star in the National Basketball Association.

Women bowlers fall victim to drugs clampdown

CARDIFF, March 7. (Reuters): Two Welsh bowlers have become unlikely victims of their country's clampdown on drug taking. The unnamed women, who are both taking prescription drugs, have been banned from an indoor competition because of the sports council for Wales' stricter rules on drug testing.

The council's action followed positive dope tests on two Welsh weightlifters at this year's Auckland Commonwealth Games.

The Welsh Indoor Women's Bowls Council's ban was labelled as ludicrous by Joan Johns, secretary of the British Bowls Council.

"The drugs tests were designed to stop abuse among young athletes, not old ladies playing bowls," Johns said.

"You would expect many ladies of our age to be on some sort of medication. You would hardly expect lady bowlers to be taking steroids to boost their muscles."

Belgian rider takes first leg

AGUILAS, Murcia, March 7. (AP): Belgian Johnny Dauwe edged two Dutch riders in a final sprint to win the first leg of the 10th Tour of Murcia cycling race yesterday.

Dauwe covered the 173-kilometre (107-mile) leg in four hours, 50 minutes and 59 seconds. He was followed by Dutch rider Jelle Nijdam and recent Tour of Valencia winner Tom Cordes, who both had the same time as the leader.

The leg featured a 126-kilometre (78-mile) solo run by Spanish cyclist Juan Cruz Martin, who shot out ahead of the pack early in the race and held leads of up to 12 minutes. But the pack overtook him eight kilometres (five miles) before the finish line.

A total of 150 cyclists from 10 Spanish and nine international teams set out from Aguilas, the start-finish line for the first stage, on the six-leg, 910-kilometre (564-mile) race.

Motocross GP races cancelled

GENEVA, March 7. (Reuters): The Brazilian and Argentine 125 cc Motocross Grand Prix races scheduled for early April have been cancelled for financial reasons.

A spokeswoman for the International Motorcycle Federation (FIM) said yesterday the decision was taken by the FIM council on Sunday because the Argentine organisers refused to bear their share of riders' travel expenses.

The Argentine race had been scheduled for April 8, one week after the Brazilian event.

She said the Brazilian organisers had made clear it would be impossible for them to bear the costs on their own.

13-year-old makes glory debut Capriati tames Daniels



Capriati returns a shot to Daniels. (Reuters wirephoto)

BOCA RATON, Fla., March 7. (Reuters): Teen-age tennis sensation Jennifer Capriati lived up to her advance billing as the next Chris Evert with a convincing victory yesterday in her long-awaited professional debut.

Capriati, who at 13 is the youngest American to compete in a professional event, defeated compatriot Mary Lou Daniels 7-6 (7-1) 6-1 in the opening round of a \$350,000 tournament in Boca Raton.

"I wasn't nervous, I was excited," said Capriati, who lives near Tampa. "I'm glad the first one is over."

Top seed Gabriela Sabatini, playing her first match since injuring her ankle at the Australian Open two months ago, won her second-round match with Etsuko Inoue of Japan 6-2 7-5.

Capriati, who was mobbed by photographers as she entered the stadium court, got off to a good start, racing to a 3-0 lead over Daniels, 28, a worthy opponent who is ranked 113th in the world.

Daniels fought back to trail 5-4, and Capriati looked slightly rattled as she committed nine consecutive unforced errors and fell behind 6-5.

Quickly regaining her composure, she ripped through the tie-break 7-1, and then polished off a tiring Daniels by reeling off five successive games.

In the second round she will

face 15th-seed Claudia Porwick of West Germany who reached the semifinals at the Australian Open in January.

"I think she hits the ball very hard and deep and I was coming up short," Daniels said of Capriati. "In the second set, I couldn't keep up the pace and the depth with her."

So, with all the hype surrounding Capriati, is she as good as everyone says?

"Yeah," replied Daniels, who was once ranked as high as 15th in the world. "She's good and I'm sure she'll be better."

Capriati, the junior champion at both the French and US Opens last year, has already signed endorsement deals reported to be worth more than \$5.5 million.

Porwick earned the right to become Capriati's next opponent by eliminating Elise Burgin of the United States 6-1 4-6 6-2.

Seventh seed Pam Shriver of the United States routed Sarah Loosmore of Britain 6-3 6-0 and ninth seed Raffaella Reggi of Italy ousted Sandra Wasserman of Belgium 7-6 (7-4) 6-4.

Sabatini, who got a first-round bye, said her ankle felt strong. "It's much better," she said. "I think it's back to normal."

In the only other second-round match of the day, Dinky van Rensburg of South Africa beat Nathalie Guerin of France 7-5 7-6 (7-2).

Trail Blazers beat Knicks

NEW YORK, March 7. (AP): Kevin Duckworth scored eight of his season-high 28 points during a decisive 13-0 run that carried the Portland Trail Blazers to a 112-101 victory over the New York Knicks.

The Trail Blazers won their 40th game of the season, one more than all of last season, despite a season-low three points from Clyde Drexler. The all-star guard, averaging 23.2 points and with a previous season-low of 14, was 1-for-10 from the field last night.

Patrick Ewing led New York with 40 points. Williams had 21 points and Kersey 19 for the Trail Blazers.

Jazz 111, Magic 101

Karl Malone scored 16 of his 31 points in the fourth quarter and Utah opened the period with an 18-6 surge to pull away from Orlando in a 111-101 victory.

Thurl Bailey had 20 points and John Stockton 17 and 12 assists as the Midwest Division leaders, bouncing back from a last-second loss Monday night at Miami, won for the eighth time in nine games.

Suns 113, Hawks 111

Jeff Hornacek broke a tie with 25 seconds remaining and came

up with a loose ball in the final five seconds as Phoenix beat Atlanta 113-111 for its 11th victory in 13 games.

The Suns won despite a 43-point performance by Dominique Wilkins, who now has 123 points in his last three games. Tom Chambers led Phoenix with 31 points, Kevin Johnson had 24 points and Eddie Johnson 20 points for the Suns.

Pistons 101, Kings 91

Joe Dumars and Bill Laimbeer scored 25 points apiece to lead Detroit to its 19th victory in 20 games, 101-91 over Sacramento.

The Pistons, 28-3 at home, have a six-game winning streak. The defending NBA champions, who shut down Sacramento 27-14 in the fourth period, are playing their best ever. Detroit won 16 of 17 games last March.

Bulls 114, Bucks 105

Michael Jordan scored 35 points, including six in a closing 10-0 run as Chicago extended its winning streak to nine games by beating Milwaukee 114-105.

The winning streak is the Bulls' longest since 1973-74 and was their 11th victory in the last 12 meetings with Milwaukee.

Pacers 113, Bulls 98

Chuck Person scored 36 points

Graf to skip tournament

WASHINGTON, March 7. (AP): Steffi Graf's recovery from a thumb injury remains on track, but she has decided to skip the Family Circle Magazine Cup tournament April 2-8 in Hilton Head, S.C., a spokeswoman for her management representative said yesterday.

"Her treatment is on track and she's working out and taking therapy regularly," said Advantage International spokeswoman Meredith Krugman Geisler. "But she just won't be able to resume tournament play any sooner than originally expected."

Graf, who is the world's top-seeded player, is expected to return to competition on April 30 at the Citizen Cup in Hamburg, Geisler said.

Graf broke her thumb in a skiing accident while on vacation in St. Moritz, Switzerland on Feb. 7.

Doctors originally told Graf she would be sidelined for about 12 weeks, Geisler said.

Results

Portland 112 New York 100

Utah 111 Orlando 101

Phoenix 113 Atlanta 111

Detroit 101 Sacramento 91

Indiana 113 Washington 98

Chicago 114 Milwaukee 105

Houston 112 L.A. Lakers 95

Denver 122 Charlotte 96

Seattle 95 Cleveland 96



Edberg: crushed Davis



Chang: out through injury

Edberg encouraged by win over Davis

INDIAN WELLS, Calif., March 7. (Reuters): Stefan Edberg, who had not won a match since being forced to default during the Australian Open final in January, boosted his confidence yesterday with an easy victory in the Champions Cup.

The Swedish second seed cruised past unseeded American Scott Davis 6-3 6-2 after receiving a bye in the first round of the one-million-dollar tennis tournament.

In his only other outing since pulling a stomach muscle against Czechoslovakia's Ivan Lendl in the Australian Open final, he lost in the first round last week at Memphis, Tennessee.

"It was an important match for me," said Edberg. "I wanted this win badly. It's nice to win a match and get back to playing matches again."

One seed was upset when number 12 Andres Gomez of Ecuador was beaten by Australia's Darren Cahill 7-5 6-4.

American Pete Sampras, the 13th seed who injured his thumb in a doubles match, defeated India's Ramesh Krishnan 6-3 6-2.

Edberg's serve and volley game was sharp against Davis, who likes to play a similar style. Edberg forced Davis into errors in the first set, breaking him in the eighth game with a backhand pass. Edberg served out the set with a crisp volley to take it 6-3.

Davis lacked spirit in the second set, dropping his opening service game when he missed an overhead. The American attempted a comeback in the fourth game when he missed two chances to break Edberg.

But the Swede held and broke Davis again for a 5-2 lead when the American missed a dropshot. Edberg served out the match on his fourth match point 6-2 with a forehand crosscourt volley.

Cahill avenged a loss to Gomez at the Australian Open, using his touch at the net and steady groundstrokes to nullify Gomez's attacking style in a 7-5 6-4 triumph.

Sampras said he suffered no pain in his thumb and was able to serve and volley as normal to defeat Krishnan. Sampras broke Krishnan once in the first set and twice in the second, the second time to win the match on his fourth match point when Krishnan hit a half-volley long.

Michael Chang pulled out of the tournament yesterday after suffering pains in the left hip which he fractured in December.

Chang made his comeback a week ago in Memphis, Tennessee, but lost in the first round. The 18-year-old American, who is ranked seventh in the world, practised at Indian Wells over the weekend but recurring hip pains forced him to withdraw.

"For some reason I guess my body is not ready to take that kind of pounding," said Chang, who anticipates a return to competition no later than late May in the French Open where he will be the defending champion.

Chang has prior commitments in Florida, in two weeks — an event he is likely to miss — and in the Far East, where he has endorsement contracts which obligate him to play.

"I'm going to take this time to really strengthen the muscles around my hip," Chang said. "I can't play three sets really hard, but in Memphis I didn't have those problems. I felt great."

"It's frustrating. It sets me back. I was fine and then on Saturday, it hit me."

Robertson survives first round

SALZBURG, Austria, March 7. (Reuters): World number four Chris Robertson recovered from two games down to overcome 27th-ranked Stuart Hallstone in the first round of the Austria Open Squash Championships yesterday.

South Africa-born Hallstone, who now represents his adopted Scotland, threatened to cause a major upset when he took a tense first game 17-16 in 30 minutes and then cruised through the second 15-12 in nine minutes.

But the Australian, fresh from his victory over world champion Jansher Khan in Cardiff last month, is probably the most experienced player in the tournament. He has won the British national circuit and after 90 minutes of play he clawed his way back to win the next three games 15-12 15-10 15-8.

Adam Schreiber, world number 33 from Australia, surprisingly extended British champion and world number 11, David Harris to five games.

Schreiber produced a prolonged spell of inventive squash, leading by two games to one and 3-1 in the fourth. But with victory firmly in his sights, the Australian's touch deserted him.

Harris recovered to take the fourth game 15-9 and needed just 10 minutes to capture the fifth by the same score.

Harris is scheduled to meet Jansher in tomorrow's second round, with Phil Taylor seeded to play the winner in Friday's quarterfinals.

The bottom half of the draw is expected to come down to a semifinal clash between six times former world champion, Jahangir Khan and Australian number one Chris Dittmar, who defeated him at the same stage of the World Championship in Malaysia last October.

Gardiner speeds to Ladies Invitation Karting Trophy

Haines romps to victory in men's event

SANDRA GARDINER won this month's round of the Ladies Invitation Karting Trophy in exhilarating style at the Ahmadi Kart Track on Friday. Norma Haines finished in second place while Bernadette Friesenegger was third.

Maximum points for the Kuwait National Drivers Championship were won by Davis Haines, who following a successful afternoon's racing came home a comfortable winner from Simon Lloyd. David Wheeler was third.

At the very start of the meeting, Peter Wakeley sheared his drive sprocket key while being pushed started in the first heat. This was particularly disastrous as Wakeley had drawn pole position for this heat, and this distinction cannot be awarded twice in one meeting. Following the usual two lap warm-up, the race was started by the raising of the Kuwaiti flag when the remaining eleven cars surged for the first time into Clubhouse Bend, where Ray Washer and Keiren Dick were to become the first casualties by colliding and careering into the safety tyres bordering the track.

Ray Washer was the first of the two drivers to restart his kart just ahead of Peter Friesenegger and David Haines, fighting to decide the lead position. One lap later, Haines succeeded in passing Friesenegger on the third time around the bank hairpin.

Succeeded

Dick succeeded in restarting his kart for a short period but was unable to sustain his re-entry to the race and withdrew from this heat. Meanwhile Friesenegger appeared to be rapidly losing power and with Haines pulling further away from him he was passed also by Lloyd moving into second position.



Haines (centre), Lloyd (2nd left) and Wheeler (right) with Mahdi Habib.

Friesenegger eventually retired around the eighth lap and Haines went on to win this heat from Simon Lloyd.

The second of the four ten-lap heats went on to provide a similar level of thrills, spills and excitement with again Lloyd unsuccessfully challenging Haines for the leadership. Friesenegger was a non-starter for this heat while trying to overcome the engine problem that he suffered from the previous heat.

The third heat saw the return of Friesenegger to the grid together with Wakeley who had now repaired his sheared key, although Baha Akl was experiencing problems with his braking system and had taken time out from this heat to repair

same for the last heat and the final. The heat itself saw the continuation of the Haines/Lloyd road show as it was now becoming, with again, Lloyd failing to make significant impact on Haines' lead.

Final heat

The fourth and final heat however was a different story. Haines drew the back position on the grid with Lloyd on the front row, making the task of Haines significantly more difficult in that he now had to negotiate the rest of the field before being able to mount a challenge on the early head built up by Lloyd.

Around a little over half way through the heat, Haines had brilliantly driven through the entire field leaving only the ever

competitive Lloyd to overcome. The tussle that followed was spectacular with bumper to bumper action between Lloyd and Haines. The end result in around the sixth lap was that Haines' front tyre mounted Lloyd's rear tyre sending Haines into the air and spinning his kart. This action stalled his engine and left him facing the opposite direction, and having turned his kart around was unsuccessful in his two or three efforts to restart.

With Haines having withdrawn from the fourth heat Lloyd went on to win, but Haines had done enough in the first three heats to secure pole position on the grid for the final, with Lloyd predictably in the front line in anti-pole position.



The Ladies winners: Gardiner (centre), Norma Haines (right) and Bernadette Friesenegger

For the second meeting in succession Neil Gardiner had again earned a place in the second row on the grid, for while Haines and Lloyd had been battling throughout the afternoon Gardiner had shown considerable tenacity resulting in this high placing.

Moment

The fifteen lap final produced a number of exciting moments not least when the luckless Friesenegger was forced off the track while attempting to position himself to overtake a taileder. The incident was, by Friesenegger's own comments entirely free of blame on anyone's part and was as he said "just one of those things in racing", which is a classic testimony to the sportsmanlike attitude

of Friesenegger as this is the second meeting in succession where he had been on the wrong end of some "rough justice".

Friesenegger's attitude runs throughout the club without exception and is a key factor in the club's rapid and continuing growth. This is evidenced by the sponsor's willingness to attend all meetings as did Emad Mahdi Hahih of the Mahdi Hahih Commercial Establishment who were the sponsors for the afternoon's meeting, which was again enjoyed by a sizeable crowd which appears to be growing with every meeting.

Meeting

The next meeting is the biggest of the club's annual calendar, that of the Middle East Kart Championship with con-

firmed entries from UK, Malaysia, Austria, Brunei, Dubai, Cyprus and Holland, plus our own drivers originating from Canada, USA, UK, Austria and Lebanon, which promises to give the most exciting racing seen in Ahmadi for many years.

Thursday, March 15, sees all drivers competing against the clock for their grid positions to be allocated for the racing which commences at twelve noon on Friday, March 16. Many attractions have been arranged and an extremely large crowd is expected so come early for the best viewing points.

For any information regarding the club's activities please contact David Burfoot, Tel: 5732936 for further details.

Anderlecht score 2-0 victory

Cologne outplay Antwerp

COLOGNE, West Germany, March 7. (Reuters) West Germany's experienced World Cup midfielder Pierre Littbarski inspired Cologne to a workmanlike 2-0 win over Belgium's Antwerp in their UEFA Cup quarterfinal first leg yesterday.

The 29-year-old, a key playmaker in the West German teams which finished runners-up in the last two World Cups, thought the Antwerp defence cold in the second minute with a crisp volley to give the West German side an early lead.

The Cologne captain masterfully conducted the Bundesliga side's attacking play as a 53rd minute header by Norwegian international Anders Giske gave the home side two-goal cushion to take to Belgium in two weeks.

Cologne were always the most dangerous side in an aggressive midfield battle which saw English referee Neil Midgley take his yellow card out twice in the early exchanges.

Nico Claessen and former Cologne star Hans-Peter Lehnhoff battled up front for the Belgian side but they never looked like penetrating the home side's tight defence.

"We were very disciplined tonight," Cologne coach Christoph Daum said. "Of course we are now in a very good position for the second leg but we will still go there wanting to get into attacking positions."



Thomas Haessler (left) of Cologne jumps over Antwerp's Rudy Smits. (Reuters wirephoto)

ing positions."

Teams:
Cologne — Bodo Illgner, Andreas Gielchen, Alfons Higl, Anders Giske, Thomas Haessler, Olaf Janssen (77th Jan Jensen).

Frank Greiner, Pierre Littbarski, Armin Goertz, Ralf Sturm (Falko Goetz 73rd) Andrzej Rudy.
Antwerp—Ratko Svilar, Geert Emmerechts, Wim Kiekens,

Miroslav Curcic, Rudy Smits, Ralf Geilenkirchen, Patrick Schrooten, Frans van Rooij, Hans-Peter Lehnhoff, Patrick van Veirdegheem, Nico Claessen (66th, Czerniatynski).

And in Brussels, two first half goals within five minutes by Belgian international midfielder Marc Degryse earned Anderlecht a 2-0 victory over Admira Wacker in a European Cup Winners' Cup quarterfinal first leg yesterday.

Degryse netted the first when he stormed into the area after a quick one-two with Yugoslav Milan Jankovic after 32 minutes and his rising 10-metre shot deflected off of an Admira Wacker defender past wrong-footed Austrian goalkeeper Wolfgang Knaller.

The mercurial Degryse stabbed home the second when he took a high pass on the run and cut into the area between two Austrian defenders before slipping the ball between Knaller's legs into the net.

Degryse almost completed a hat-trick when a fierce 20 metre free-kick curled narrowly wide of the near post in the 44th minute.

The one-man show started after 19 minutes when Degryse fired a long-distance shot over the bar and he stormed through again seven minutes later only to see his volley rebound off the bar. Wacker, packed in defence

most of the time, managed only one clear chance. In the 24th minute, Johannes Ahlfalterer pushed forward but Anderlecht goalkeeper Filip de Wilde dived into his feet.

Anderlecht found it harder to push forward in a foul-littered second half as Jankovic lost his sparkle and Degryse fell victim to some scything tackles from the frustrated Austrians.

The Belgians' best chance came 18 minutes after the interval but Knaller dived full stretch to push Luc Nili's volley into safety.

Austrian international striker Gerhard Rodax, who carried Wacker's counter-attacking hopes, was tightly marked by Anderlecht's Dutch international defender Adri van Tiggelen and never found his footing.

Anderlecht — Filip de Wilde, Georges Grun, Wim Kooiman, Adri van Tiggelen, Henrik Andersen, Charly Musonda, Stephen Keshi, Luc Nili, Marc Degryse, Milan Jankovic (76th Patrick Vervoort), Marc van der Linden (78th Luis Oliveira).

Wacker — Wolfgang Knaller, Gerald Bacher, Herbert Oberhofer, Helmut Graf (64th Alois Dotz), Alex Sperr, Fred Schaub (75th Walter Knaller), Johannes Ahlfalterer, Peter Artnr, Uwe Muller, Andreas Gretschnig, Gerhard Rodax.

Bush won't get involved in baseball negotiations

WASHINGTON, March 7. (AP) President George Bush, an avid baseball fan and father of the Texas Rangers owner, will not get involved in baseball's lockout, White House officials said yesterday.

Bush, captain of Yale's baseball team in 1948 while in college, is "concerned about the fans and the game of baseball," said White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater.

"He would like to see the issue resolved. But he has no intentions to intervene," Fitzwater said.

The President's son, George W. Bush, became part owner of the Texas Rangers last year.

Fitzwater said he did not know if the president had spoken to his son about the dispute, which threatens the scheduled start of the season on April 2.

Asked whether the president would deal with "economic dislocations" to spring-training states such as Florida and Arizona, Fitzwater said: "Well, there's a bargaining process set up to resolve this issue and that's the appropriate forum."

Baseball commissioner Fay Vincent has been involved in the negotiations between the Players Union and a group representing the team owners.

Steve Howe, suspended six times in his baseball career for drug and alcohol problems and unofficially banned the last two years, will be allowed to return to the Major Leagues starting in 1991, Vincent said yesterday.

Howe, released by the Texas Rangers on Jan 19, 1988, for using alcohol in violation of his aftercare programme, can return to the Minor Leagues this season, Vincent said.

The pitcher was the National League rookie of the Year in 1980, but was released by Los Angeles, Minnesota and Texas because of his problems. He was suspended for the 1984 season by commissioner Bowie Kuhn for cocaine use.

Vincent said in a statement that Howe would be "removed from the game" if he tests positive or incurs a relapse. He will be tested as often as every other day, the statement said.

Howe, who will be 32 on Friday, has a 29-31 career record with 60 saves in parts of seven Major League seasons. He is currently a free agent.

Pierce going to South Africa

WELLINGTON, New Zealand, March 7. (AP) Former New Zealand rugby union international Murray Pierce confirmed today that he planned to spend a year playing in South Africa and said the trip would provide him with a fresh challenge.

The former All Black lock, who last month announced his retirement from international rugby, said he planned to fly from his Wellington home to Durban on Friday.

He will play for the Durban Collegians Club and for the Natal Provincial team in the Currie Cup competition.

Red Viking wins National Day Regatta

THE Kuwait Offshore Sailing Association (Kosa) staged the sixth and seventh races of its Spring Series, collectively called the National Day Regatta recently.

Red Viking, reaping the benefits of the effort put into maintaining the boat and some new sails, handily won both races.

The early morning very light northerly breeze saw the race officer restricting the course to a triangle/sausage configuration at the pre-race briefing so that a result could be achieved within the time limit for the race.

Pre-start manoeuvres proved to be somewhat of a gamble as the fluky wind left some of the yachts in danger of being stranded on the wrong side of the start line. The five minute 'siren' saw 'Magic Flute', Shamal and Red Viking all gybing about 200 yards from the start line with Good Kompany slightly in close proximity to it. It was portentous for the day that in the almost non-existent wind Red Viking managed to get up good boat speed and surprise Good Kompany at the line causing the former to bear off to avoid a collision and raise a protest flag.

A strengthening wind saw Red Viking start first followed closely by Magic Flute, Shamal and a very flustered Good Kompany. All boats were on a starboard tack with Red Viking pointing high and edging offshore. Magic Flute staying inshore to get some tidal lift and Shamal and Good Kompany edging their bets down the middle.

Tactic

The windward mark, where all boats were given enthusiastic encouragement from a coast guard boat anchored nearby, saw Red Viking rounding slightly ahead of Shamal who were about 2 minutes ahead of Magic Flute with Good Kompany trailing by about the same margin. All boats hoisted their spinnakers for what should have been a reaching leg but soon discovered that the wind had shifted to

the northeast and the leg had become another beat.

After sails had been changed Red Viking and Magic Flute found themselves below the wind mark. Shamal, who appeared to have the correct line to round the mark, tacked to give herself more space a tactic followed by Magic Flute. Red Viking managed to pinch up to the mark and gybed around without having to tack a manoeuvre which gave her a 3 minute lead over Shamal at this stage with Magic Flute a further minute behind.

The run back to ODM (start) under a falling breeze saw Red Viking maintaining her advantage over Shamal with Magic Flute slipping back slightly and Good Kompany taking advantage of the light conditions to close up with the fleet.

During the sausage leg of the race positions of the leading two boats remained unchanged with Red Viking finally crossing the finish almost 6 minutes ahead of Shamal. Good Kompany had benefitted from Magic Flute misjudging the rounding of the last mark to finish in third place 12 minutes further back.

At the hearing for the protest lodged by Red Viking against Good Kompany for the start line confrontation it was adjudged that Good Kompany had infringed IYR 37.1 and was disqualified from the race. As Red Viking's handicap doesn't reflect the fact she is currently racing without an engine she was provisionally declared winner of SS6 with Shamal second and Magic Flute third.

The lengthy deliberations of the protest committee meant that the start of the afternoon race, SS7, was delayed. By the time the race briefing was called the wind had swung around to the south and the course was adjusted to use the buoy at Fish Cages for the windward mark. Again a triangle/sausage configuration was used so that a result could be achieved in the limited time and variable wind conditions.

The start saw all yachts, except Magic Flute, approaching the line on starboard tack. Magic Flute, being on port tack, was without any rights at all and seemed set to miss the start completely. Fortunately for them Good Kompany bore off to gain some boat speed which allowed Magic Flute to slip through to reach a position from where they could tack and make the line. At the start Red Viking lead narrowly from Magic Flute and Shamal with Good Kompany slightly behind.

The beat to the windward mark saw Red Viking and Magic Flute continue of the starboard tack. Shamal tacked onto port halfway down the leg in an effort to break the deadlock with Magic Flute. Red Viking and Magic Flute benefited from a wind shift which lifted these boats towards the mark with Red Viking rounding about 2 minutes ahead of the latter boat. The wind shift forced Shamal into a number of tacks in order to make the mark and they eventually rounded behind Good Kompany about a minute behind the leading boats.

Sight

The next leg was a run to the wind mark under spinnaker. The race officer was surprised to see Good Kompany using a sail not rated in their handicap and was getting ready to disqualify them again when he realised it was actually their spinnaker gone up sideways! Red Viking failed to sight the wind mark until well down the leg at which time they realised they were sailing away from it. In a successful effort to pull the other boats after them they continued on the same course. It was some time before Magic Flute discovered the deception and gybed towards the mark closely followed, in the gybe, by Shamal and Red Viking.

At the wind mark Red Viking had established a good lead over Shamal who lead Magic Flute by about 2 minutes. Red Viking rounded the mark and, with some excellent sail handling, soon set course for ODM.

Red Viking ran away from the rest of the fleet on this leg rounding the mark more than six minutes in front of Shamal who rounded with a reduced margin ahead of Magic Flute.

The final sausage was sailed under a falling wind. Red Viking increased her lead to cross the finish line almost 7 minutes in front of Shamal who was followed home by Magic Flute a further one and a half minutes behind. Good Kompany was badly affected by the wind loss and finished well out of contention.

Provisional handicap corrected results saw Red Viking declared the winner of SS7 with Magic Flute second and Shamal third.

Results of SS6: 1 Red Viking, 2 Shamal, 3 Magic Flute; results of SS7: 1 Red Viking, 2 Magic Flute, 3 Shamal.

Progressive scores in the Spring Series are 1 Red Viking, 17.25; 2 Shamal, 21.75; 3 Magic Flute, 22.75; 4 Good Kompany, 39; 5 Whispering, 59; and 6 Topaz, 66.

The next race in the Spring Series is scheduled for today and is a long distance overnight event. Briefings at 4 pm at the Shaah Marina.

Bahrain race
After months of behind the scene organisation and negotiations, Kosa are now able to confirm that the Bahrain race will be held next month during the Eid Al Fitr period. The race which is expected to take up to three days will start on Tuesday, April 24, from the Khiran Resort Marina.

Currently nine Kuwait yachts are entered for the 250-mile race and three yachts will travel up from Bahrain to participate. Several boats have one or two crew positions available. If you feel you can dedicate yourself to this event and the necessary preliminary training please call the Bahrain project director on 5326145 as soon as possible. Experience is preferred but not essential; the ability to work in a team environment with total commitment is required.



Gordeeva spins in the air as Grinkov reaches to catch her. (Reuters wirephoto)

Soviets dominate figure skating event

HALIFAX, Canada, March 7. (UPI) The Soviet Union, long superior in two-skater disciplines, dominated the second day of the 1990 World Figure Skating Championships yesterday, going 1-2-3 in the first round of pairs and 1-2 in compulsory ice dances.

Though flat and cautious in comparison to their compatriots, three-time world and 1988 Olympic champions Ekaterina Gordeeva and Sergei Grinkov were scored best in the pairs' original, or short, programme on the basis of their technical skills and reputation.

The judging, however, was split and the Halifax Metro Centre audience clearly preferred second-place Natalia Mishkutenok and Artur Dmitriev and third-place Larissa Selezneva and Oleg Makarov. Both got standing ovations — Mishkutenok and Dmitriev, who were making their world debut, for an elegant and innovative programme to music from the ballet Swan Lake, and longtime veterans Selezneva and Makarov for a funky interpretation of Michael Jackson's 'Thriller,' 'Beat It,' and 'Billie Jean.'

Canadians Cindy Landry and Lyndon Johnston, the 1989 world silver medalists, finished a dismal 10th in the original programme, which counts one-third toward the overall championship, after Johnston touched down failing to complete his side-by-side Lutz, a required move.

Injured Romario to be included in Cup squad

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, March 7. (AP) Coach Sebastiao Lazaroni of the Brazilian national soccer team cancelled a trip to Europe yesterday and announced that injured star Romario would be named to his squad for the World Cup in Italy.

"I will anticipate something I should do only on April 16: Romario will be on the team and, God willing, will report to training camp April 23," Lazaroni said in a televised interview.

The coach said he would reserve a berth for the speedy centreforward until the last minute to give him a chance to recover.

"We will wait for Romario until the maximum limit I have to enroll the 22 players who will participate in the World Cup, which is 10 days before the start," he said.

Romario de Souza Faria of the Dutch club PSV Eindhoven broke his leg on Sunday during a League match

with Den Haag. The 24-year-old attacker was tackled from behind as he broke in alone on goal during PSV's 2-1 victory.

The fracture of the peroneum, the smaller of two bones in the lower leg, was less serious than was first thought, doctors said. Lazaroni and team physician Lidio Toledo cancelled a trip to examine Romario after hearing reports from PSV club physicians.

"He should be recovered in six to eight weeks," Toledo said.

Brazil's first game in the Cup is June 10 against Sweden for Group C. But Romario is completing a three-game suspension and won't be eligible until the second match against Costa Rica on June 16.

Romario, who led Brazil to the title of the continent-wide America Cup in July, is the top scorer in the Dutch national championship, with 23 goals.

Strange set to start PGA tour

CORAL SPRINGS, Florida, March 7. (AP) Curtis Strange is in a catch-up position this week as he goes into the much-delayed start of his American Professional Golfers Association Tour season.

Strange, who has won golf's money-winning title in three of the last five years, is in 91st place and \$370,000 back of leader Paul Azinger coming into the Honda Classic, which begins tomorrow.

The problem, Strange admits, is of his own making. And, he said, he isn't likely to put himself in this position again.

"I don't like being behind," said Strange, who has played most of his golf in Australia this season. His only previous American start was in the Tournament of Champions two months ago.

"It's just a different schedule for me," he said after a practice session on the TPC at Eagle Trace. "I'd decided on this schedule last fall. I knew the position I'd be putting myself in. But I don't think I'd make the same decision again."

After the Tournament of Champions, Strange, winner of the last two US Opens, made the first of two trips to Australia.

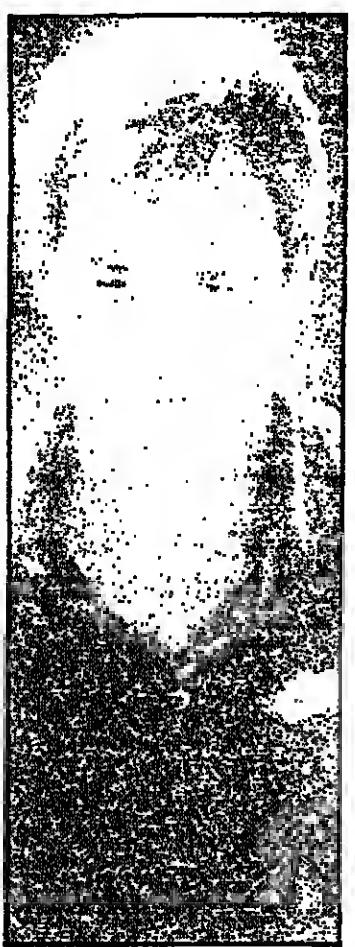
After losing in a playoff in defence of his title in an Australia event, he returned home and planned to play in Phoenix.

"On the way there, I got sick, flu or something," he said. "I fought that for three weeks" before returning to Australia for two more events.

"I enjoyed it," said Strange, who received guaranteed appearance money for the events he played in. "I had a good time. It was fun. And financially, it was great. But I don't think I'd do it again."

Since returning last week, he said, "I've been home working on my game, working pretty hard."

"You know, I'm a little surprised. But I missed it. I'm happy to be back. I never thought I'd be so glad to see all these guys again."



Curtis Strange

Prost hopes to emulate Mansell at Phoenix GP

PHOENIX, Arizona, March 7. (Reuters) World champion Alain Prost hopes to follow the example set by Nigel Mansell in Brazil last year when he makes his debut for Ferrari in Sunday's United States Grand Prix, opening round of the 1990 Formula One series.

Mansell, driving a Ferrari for the first time in Rio de Janeiro last March, scored a stunning victory which led to all-night celebrations in much of Italy.

Prost, winner of last year's inaugural race on the streets of downtown Phoenix, would dearly love to emulate that achievement with his 40th Grand Prix victory.

But the Frenchman, who profited from the retirement of his great rival and then-McLaren team mate Ayrton Senna of Brazil last year, is hoping the race will not prompt the bitterness and controversy which dogged and ultimately overshadowed his title triumph last season.

"Formula One is dangerous enough already," he said. "So I hope that before the race I can speak to Ron Dennis (McLaren team director). I don't want any of this animosity to carry on from last season."

"Ayrton, Nigel and myself — we are all in the same business and I don't think any of us can afford to think about revenge. I was angry myself at some of the things that happened at



Prost (left) and Senna during one of the races on last year's Formula One racing calendar.

McLaren last year — but that is the past now.

"I have no regrets. I could have said no when Dennis wanted to bring Senna to McLaren in the first place. But I didn't. Now, I am with Ferrari and I am happy."

Prost and his British Ferrari team mate Mansell will start Friday's opening practice widely regarded as the chief challengers to Senna and his new team mate, Austrian Gerhard Berger.

Prost, however, feels he has to learn more about his new team

before he can produce his best for them and he has played down his chances of an immediate victory on the demanding 3.8-km circuit on which only six cars completed the distance last year.

"I need more time with the car," he said. "I need to race with it. For that reason, I will not be 100 per cent at my best for the first couple of races."

Last year's race in Phoenix was run in early June in searing and exhausting heat. This weekend, the temperatures will be lower,

the race having been brought forward to March to replace Brazil as the season-opener for the first time since 1982.

Senna and Berger, with the revised Honda V-10 engines to power their McLarens, and the two Ferrari men could find that reliability plays as big a part as outright speed once again on the slow, arduous and humpy Phoenix streets.

They are also likely to be closely chased, if not challenged or led, by the Williams of Belgian Thierry Boutsen and Riccardo

Patrese of Italy — both finished last year — and the Benetton of Italy's Alessandro Nannini and Brazilian Nelson Piquet.

Piquet will also be making his debut for a new team and he may be sufficiently fired up to recapture some of the form which has earned him three world titles.

Several other drivers have switched teams, including experienced Briton Derek Warwick with Lotus and Italian Michele Alboreto with Arrows.

Warwick, who spearheads a completely revamped Lotus

attack — the team have reshaped its management and switched to Lamborghini's V-12 engine this season, thinks the circuit will suit him.

"It is a nice circuit, but tough on the car, especially the gearbox, the tyres and the brakes. But I think it might suit the low power curve of the Lamborghini engine."

This season there will be no West German presence in the world championship following the withdrawal of the Rial and Zakspeed teams.

Fastest skiers get ready for US Cup debut

OAKRIDGE, Oregon, March 7. (AP) About 60 of the world's fastest skiers are scheduled to compete this week in the US debut of World Cup speed skiing.

The competition runs Thursday through Saturday at Willamette Pass ski area.

"They're up there training today," Dick Bonebrake, the ski area's marketing manager, said yesterday. "They've hit about 95 miles (153 kilometres) per hour and they're just warming up."

C.J. Mueller and Kirsten Culver head the 10-member US Ski Association team as it takes on competitors from around the world.

Mueller, who's been clocked at 136 miles (219 kilometres) per hour, holds the fastest time ever recorded by an American skier. The world speed record of 139 miles (224 kilometres) per hour is held by Michael Prufer of France.

Speed skiing is a World Cup event sanctioned by the International Ski Federation and is one of the fastest growing skiing disciplines, said Kurt Haaland, a local speed skier who helped organize Willamette pass ski area's bid for the event.

Speed skiing also has been granted demonstration sports status for the 1992 Olympic Winter Games in Albertville, France.

SPORTS



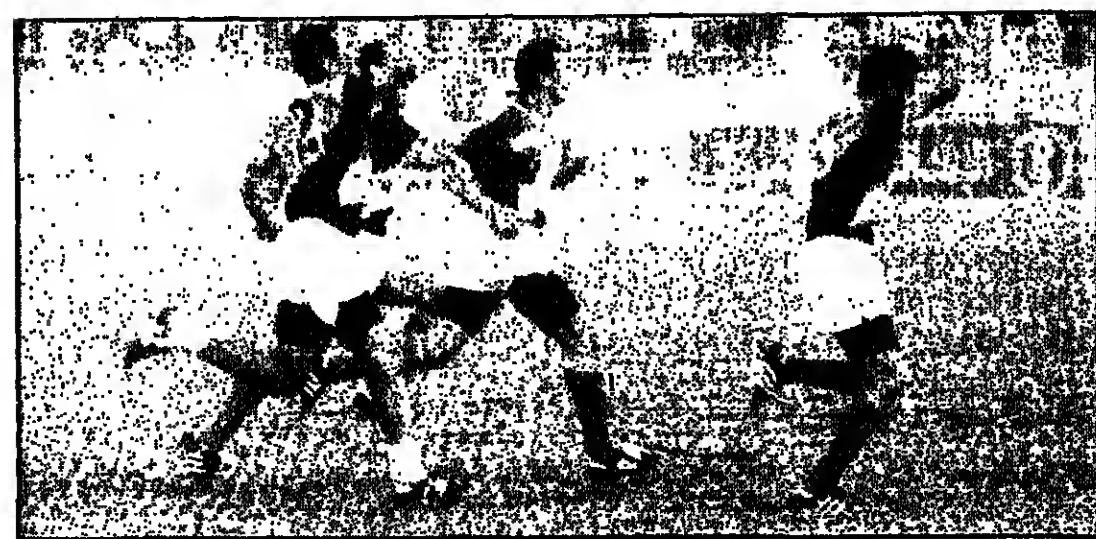
The Kuwait team members celebrate their victory.



An action shot of the match.



The Qatari keeper lies tangled in the netting after the first goal.



Bdaiah (right) celebrates his goal as teammates pursue him.

Bdaiah and Ibrahim score for home team

Kuwait tame Qatar for Gulf title

(Continued from Page 1)

retreat, and then released a wide shot.

During the whole first half, the Qataris could rarely reach the Kuwaiti goal. Their real scoring chance came after 30 minutes of the first half when rightback Mohammad Dham played a long ball into the 6-metre area, and it was Kuwaiti captain Mahboub Juma who cleared the ball for a corner.

Playing basically in a defensive game, the Qataris kept only two strikers forward including Mansur Muftah who did not show his sharp form in front of the goal.

The Kuwaitis countered the Qatari defensive play by opening the field from both sides. Kuwaiti striker Waleed Nasser showed an excellent form in yesterday's match and performed efficiently as a left-winger. Right back, Usamah Hussain always advanced along with Muayyad Al Haddad from the right side and their accurate crosses inside the area continuously threatened the Qatari goal.

The Kuwaiti team tended to slow the pace in the second half in order to preserve their lead. Mansur Muftah got an opportunity to get the equaliser after 7 minutes into the second half. Qatari defender Juma Salem drove a powerful 23-metre shot which, goalkeeper Sameer Saeed couldn't control and punched the ball to the awaiting Mansur, who found himself face to face with the goalkeeper but shot high over the bar. Mansur was then substituted by Khalifa Salem and the Qataris were now looking for a quick goal. They depended on sending high long balls into the Kuwaiti area for the tall Mahmoud Sufi who was also out of form. The Kuwaiti defense easily cleared such balls. The second goal almost killed the Qatari hopes for at least a draw.

After the second goal, the Qatari attacks lacked penetration, precision and organisation. The usually powerful Qatari midfield was rendered helpless and the Kuwaiti defense easily dealt with the long balls of the Qataris, leaving most of them to go for goal kicks.

Towards the end of the match, Kuwaiti coach Philip Louis replaced striker Al Haddad with Salah Al Hassawi thus inducing new strength to his attacking line.

The UAE referee Ahmad Hakim, although managed to take the match to safety, was

hesitant in some of his decision. He allowed some rough plays, particularly by the Qataris in the second half.

Standings

Standings of the teams is as follows (tabulated under games played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):

Kuwait	3	2	1	0	4	1	5
Qatar	4	1	2	1	4	4	4
Bahrain	4	1	2	1	1	4	4
Oman	4	0	3	1	4	6	3
UAE	3	0	2	1	1	2	2

Teams:

Kuwait: Sameer Saeed (goalkeeper), Usamah Hussain, Mahboub Juma (capt), Basel Abdul Nabi, Adel Al Khalefi, Rashid Bdayeh, Wael Sulaiman, Nasser Al Ghanim (Ubeid Shemmari), Muayyad Al Haddad (Salah Al Hassawi), Mohammad Ibrahim, Waleed Nasser.

Qatar: Younis Ahmad (goalkeeper), Ali Slaiti, Yousef Adasani, Mohammad Dham, Mubarak Salem, Juma Salem, Adel Khamees, Issa Ahmad, Mohammad Ammari (Zamel Kuwari), Mansur Muftah (capt) (Khalifa Salem), Mahmoud Sufi.



Ibrahim scores the second goal.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Bridge

RESULTS of the Hubara Centre Bridge Club game played on Saturday:

N/S

1. Nabil Akeel & Lollo Murtwhait
2. Simon & Gajjar
3. Rasmim & Araleh

E/W

1. Beatrice Pereira & Obrey D'Souza
2. Dr Parikh & Dr Naim
3. Rasmim & Araleh

Results of the Barclay Cigarettes Bridge Tournament (4th week) played at the Regency on Sunday:

N/S

1. Adly Toab & Salman Ali
2. Rima & Fouad Farah
3. Mamdouh Sabri & Ezzeldin

E/W

1. S. Banerjee & Anil Shah
2. Lollo Murtwhait & Peter Harris
3. Nabil & Carmine Akeel

Results of the Messalah Ladies Bridge Club game:

N/S

1. Nabil Akeel & Lollo Murtwhait
2. Margaret Maynard & Jane Jackson
3. Nida Khayat & Suhendan Oaky

Results of the Regency Ladies Bridge Club game:

N/S

1. Elaine Keralat & Grate Shaktouira
2. Jamila Akeel & Helen Hughes
3. Nabil Akeel & Lollo Murtwhait

E/W

1. S. Banerjee & Anil Shah
2. Lollo Murtwhait & Peter Harris
3. Nabil & Carmine Akeel

Results of the Regency Ladies Bridge Club game:

N/S

1. Nabil Akeel & Lollo Murtwhait
2. Margaret Maynard & Jane Jackson
3. Nida Khayat & Suhendan Oaky

E/W

1. S. Banerjee & Anil Shah
2. Lollo Murtwhait & Peter Harris
3. Nabil & Carmine Akeel

Results of the Regency Ladies Bridge Club game:

N/S

1. Nabil Akeel & Lollo Murtwhait
2. Margaret Maynard & Jane Jackson
3. Nida Khayat & Suhendan Oaky

E/W

1. S. Banerjee & Anil Shah
2. Lollo Murtwhait & Peter Harris
3. Nabil & Carmine Akeel

Results of the Regency Ladies Bridge Club game:

N/S

1. Nabil Akeel & Lollo Murtwhait
2. Margaret Maynard & Jane Jackson
3. Nida Khayat & Suhendan Oaky

E/W

1. S. Banerjee & Anil Shah
2. Lollo Murtwhait & Peter Harris
3. Nabil & Carmine Akeel

Results of the Regency Ladies Bridge Club game:

N/S

1. Nabil Akeel & Lollo Murtwhait
2. Margaret Maynard & Jane Jackson
3. Nida Khayat & Suhendan Oaky

E/W

1. S. Banerjee & Anil Shah
2. Lollo Murtwhait & Peter Harris
3. Nabil & Carmine Akeel

Results of the Regency Ladies Bridge Club game:

N/S

1. Nabil Akeel & Lollo Murtwhait
2. Margaret Maynard & Jane Jackson
3. Nida Khayat & Suhendan Oaky

E/W

1. S. Banerjee & Anil Shah
2. Lollo Murtwhait & Peter Harris
3. Nabil & Carmine Akeel

Sports issues

AMMAN, March 7, (Kuna): Head of the Olympic Council of Asia Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed Al Sabah will pay a private visit to Jordan in the forthcoming few days where he is expected to hold talks with officials there on sport issues.

YRC football

THE finals of the 8th annual Youth Recreation Centre football tournament will be held on Friday March 9, 1990 at the Soor grounds between Salceote United and Nasa S.C. Kick off to be at 9am.

Algeria fined

ALGIERS, March 7, (Reuters): The African Football Confederation yesterday fined Algeria \$6,000 because Algerian fans threw fruit and trash at Egyptian players during an African Cup soccer match on Monday night.

Dutch midfielder

LEUVEN, Belgium, March 7, (Reuters): Dutch midfielder Ruud Gullit, sidelined with a knee injury for eight months, said yesterday he may be able to resume training with his Italian club AC Milan in a month's time.

Blasion ahead

LISBON, March 7, (UPI): Portuguese world champion Massimo Blasion of Italy, is the leader of the Portuguese Rally after the first stage yesterday.

British soccer

LONDON, March 7, (Reuters): Results of British soccer matches played yesterday:

English Division Two

Bournemouth 0 Oxford 1

Portsmouth 1 Wolves 3

Stoke 0 Ipswich 0

Swindon 3 Bradford 1

English Division Three

Birmingham 3 Blackpool 1

Bristol C. 1 Tranmere 3

Bury 1 Northampton 0

Cardiff 2 Rotherham 0

Crewe 1 Shrewsbury 0

Fulham 1 Chester 0

Leyton Or. 1 Huddersfield 0

Mansfield 0 Bolton 1

Notts County 2 Swansea 0

Preston 2 Walsall 0

Reading 0 Bristol R. 0

Wigan 2 Brentford 1

English Division Four

Barnley 1 Torquay 0

Cambridge 2 Maidstone 0

Colchester 0 Carlisle 0

Doncaster 2 Hartlepool 2

Gillingham 0 Peterborough 0

Grimsby 1 Chesterfield 0

Scunthorpe 2 Aldershot 2

Wrexham 2 York 0

Scottish Division Two

Kilmarnock 1 Stirling 0

Marshall replaced

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, March 7, (Reuters): Curtly Ambrose has been recalled to the West Indies squad for the second cricket Test against England in place of the injured Malcolm Marshall.

Second tour

LONDON, March 7, (Reuters): Mike Gatting, captain of the England rebel cricketers in South Africa, said today he would return for a second tour this year.

Falah seeks another win

1989 and 1990 have seen the total domination of Marlboro drivers, Eid Falah Al Farzan and Tareq Al Wazzan. Since the start of the 1988/89 season, no other driver has won a Kuwait local rally. Eid Falah, the reigning Kuwait champion, who clinched the 1989/90 Kuwait 4x4 Championship in January, has not lost a local event since the start of 1989.

The next round of this year's national championship takes place tomorrow, under the patronage of Sheikh Basil Salem Al Sabah, and the Kuwait Sea Club. Falah, who will be driving a Marlboro Mitsubishi Pajero, will aim for another win, but is likely to be closely chased by veteran driver Tareq Al Wazzan, and by Mohammed Al Hussein, and Ahmed Al Zafiri, both of whom have powerful rally cars.

There will be two stages, in Doha and Sulaibikhat, and according to Clerk of the Course, Abdullah Barkawi of the KT Club, "there is a chance for all the cars to do well."

Falah is likely to be skill coupled with speed which decides the outcome of the event. "The leaders are likely to be only

seconds apart from stage to stage," said Khaled Khalifa, the Marlboro co-driver. "That is why a fast car will have a strong advantage. Our car does not have as much power as the Group 4 Toyotas, and we will have to push hard."

We've had some small problems with the Marlboro Mitsubishi Pajero," said Falah,



A Marlboro driver in action

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Come and see him pull a car with his car
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